

Philippi – Acts 16

Background

- Paul wrote the book of Philippians from prison – a letter to the church that had been established at Philippi approximately 10 years previously (30 years after the ascension of Jesus Christ)
- Acts 15-16 provides the background of the founding of the church at Philippi

I. The Missionaries

A. Paul

- 1.** Paul had begun preparations for a second missionary journey **Acts 15:36-38** And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.
- 2.** Paul and Barnabas had been traveling together previously **Acts 13:2-3** As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.
- 3.** In preparing for a second trip there was a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas about allowing John Mark to travel with them **Acts 13:5** And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.
Acts 13:13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.
2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

B. Silas

- 1.** Silas and Judas Barsabas had been chosen by the church to accompany Paul and Barnabas **Acts 15:22** Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to

Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Acts 15:25-28 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

2. Paul chose to take Silas with him and Barnabas and Mark went another way

Acts 15:39-41 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

C. Timothy

1. Paul chose to take Timothy with him and mentor him

Acts 16:1-3 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

2. Timothy became a son in the faith to Paul

1 Timothy 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. Timothy had learned about faith from his mother and grandmother

2 Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

D. Luke

1. Luke was the writer of the book of Luke and the book of Acts (writing to Theophilus)

Luke 1:1-4 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed

among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

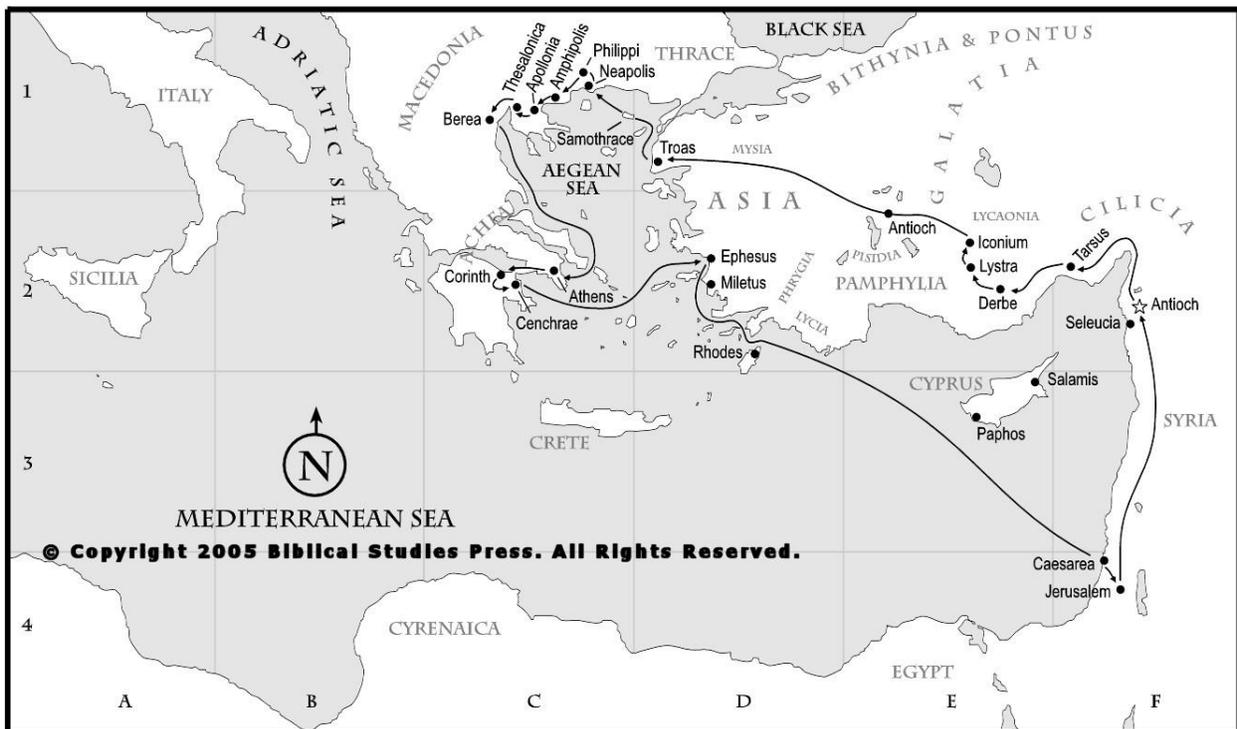
Acts 1:1-2 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

2. Luke changes his writing to include himself

Acts 16:10-12 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

3. Luke was a physician

Colossians 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.



II. The Call to Macedonia – Europe – Philippi

A. Paul's first missionary journey had taken them as far west as Antioch

B. This second journey they travelled further west to the Aegean Sea (Troas was the port)

Acts 16:6-8 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

C. Paul had a dream or a vision about going to Macedonia

Acts 16:9-10 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

1. It would seem that they were contemplating going to Macedonia

2. God gave them a peace about this decision

D. The group headed toward Philippi, the chief city

Acts 16:11-12 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

1. Troas was the port city on the east of the Aegean Sea

2. Samothracia was an island in the Aegean Sea

3. Neapolis was the port city on the west of the Aegean Sea

III. The Charter Members at Philippi

A. Lydia, a seller of purple

Acts 16:13-15 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

1. She worshipped God

2. She opened her heart to the teaching of Paul

3. She and her household were baptized
 4. She opened her home to the missionaries
- B. The fortuneteller – divination and soothsaying (may not have been a convert)

Acts 16:16-18 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

1. This woman made a living for her masters by foretelling the future
2. She proclaimed that Paul and Silas were servants of God
3. Paul grieved because of the evil spirit possessing her asked God to remove the spirit from her
4. When her masters saw that she could no longer foretell the future, they had Paul and Silas arrested and beaten

Acts 16:19-22 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

C. The jail keeper

1. The jail keeper was entrusted to not let the prisoners escape
- Acts 16:23-24** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

2. Paul and Silas were able to rejoice in persecution and imprisonment

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

3. God caused an earthquake and the prison doors were opened
Acts 16:26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.
4. The prison guard was going to commit suicide
Acts 16:27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.
5. Paul called out to him to do no harm
Acts 16:28-29 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,
6. The jailer wanted to know how to be saved
Acts 16:30-32 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.
7. The jailer ministered to them and housed them
Acts 16:33-34 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.
8. Paul and Silas were released
Acts 16:35-40 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go. And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace. But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans. And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city. And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

Philippians Chapter 1

Overview

- The letter begins with a customary greeting and introduction
 - The letter comes from Paul and Timothy
 - The letter shares appreciation for the fellowship that they received from the church at Philippi
 - Paul is writing from prison in Rome (Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon are called the prison epistles)
 - Paul emphasizes the gospel of Christ – it is the main thing
- Philippians 1:5** For your **fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now;
- Philippians 1:12** But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the **furtherance of the gospel;**
- Philippians 1:27** Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the **faith of the gospel;**
- One of the key verses of chapter 1 is verse 21
- Philippians 1:21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

I. Paul Was Thinking about the Philippians (vs. 1-2)

A. Greeting and Signature of the Letter

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

1. The Servants

a) Definition of a servant

(1) Literally a slave

(2) One who is devoted to another to the disregard of their own interests

b) Paul

(1) He does not need to declare his apostleship as he does in other letters

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,

(2) He wrote 13 epistles and possibly Hebrews

(3) His name "Paul" means "little"

c) Timothy

(1) He was Paul's son in the faith

(2) He traveled with Paul to many places

(3) Paul desired to send him to Philippi

Philippians 2:19-20 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

2. The Saints

a) Define saint

(1) Literally "saint" means a holy thing

(2) The catholic church regard saints as revered people who have met certain requirements (performing miracles or dying as a martyr) and are recognized here on this earth as saints

b) We are identified with Christ Jesus

(1) We are all saints – not because we are holy but because we have been declared holy by Christ

(2) There are only two groups: sinners and saints – the saints are just saved sinners

3. The Structure

a) Bishops – Pastors, Elders

(1) Literally, the word bishop means overseer (episkopos)

(2) There were multiple bishops in one church and not bishops over a group of churches

- (3) He doesn't make the bishops any more important than the saints other than to also acknowledge them
- (4) There are Biblical qualifications listed for a bishop found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- (5) The bishop is the same as a pastor/shepherd (feeding the sheep)

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers**, to **feed** the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

- (6) The bishop is also the same office called elder (presbuteros)

Titus 1:5-9 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain **elders** in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a **bishop** must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

b) Deacons

- (1) There are Biblical qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- (2) Their responsibility is to serve

B. A Blessing

Philippians 1:2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Paul's standard greeting

a) Grace

- (1) Graciousness, kindness, favor, thanks
- (2) Specifically God's gracious act of redeeming us through Christ

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Grace is the favor of God, unbought, undeserved, freely given, out of his generous bounty. That grace is the origin of our salvation: "By grace ye are saved." It is the source of holiness: "By the grace of God I am what I am." It is an unfailing support in all troubles and distresses: "My grace is sufficient for thee." It should be our earnest effort not "to receive the grace of God in vain," but "to continue in the grace of God;" for that grace "bringeth salvation."

b) Peace

- (1)** Harmony between individuals
- (2)** Assurance of salvation through Christ

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2. The Source of the blessing

a) God the Father

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

b) Lord Jesus Christ

John 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

- (1)** Lord – supreme in authority
- (2)** Jesus – Jehovah is salvation
- (3)** Christ – the anointed Messiah

II. Paul Was Thankful for the Philippians (vs. 3-8)

A. For their Fellowship in the Gospel

1. His remembrance of them

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

- a)** Memorable first visit
- b)** Memorable time together
- c)** Expression of thanks to them

2. His prayers for them

Philippians 1:4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

- a) Persistent and regular prayer for them
- b) Specific petitions and requests for them
- c) The pleasure of praying for them
- 3. Their fellowship together

Philippians 1:5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

 - a) Fellowship speaks of that which they had participated in together
 - b) Fellowship speaks of what they had partnered together to accomplish

B. For their Faithfulness in the Gospel

Philippians 1:6-7 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

- 1. That which had been started
- 2. That which would be completed
- 3. Paul had them on his heart in spite of being in prison
- 4. Paul reminded them why he was in prison – for the establishment of the gospel
- 5. They would benefit from his imprisonment

C. For their Friendship in the Gospel

Philippians 1:8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

- 1. Paul shares his deepest emotions with them
- 2. He so desired to be with them again

III. Paul Was Praying for the Philippians (vs. 9-11)

A. He prayed for their love

Philippians 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

- 1. Love without limits – love that would abound
 - a) Love that would be in excess
 - b) Love that overflows
- 2. Love within its limits – with knowledge and judgment
 - a) We can love all men, but we cannot always love what they do
 - b) We cannot love our children without also providing limitations and correction

B. He prayed for them to have discernment

Philippians 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

1. Approve means to test or examine
2. We should examine whether it is good or bad; right or wrong; what is good or what would be best
3. Sincere has the idea of being tested as to be pure and genuine
4. Without offence has the idea of not causing another to fall
5. The day of Christ speaks of the judgment seat of Christ – the day when we will all stand before God

C. He prayed for them to be fruitful

Philippians 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

1. The emphasis is that which is right
2. The source of the fruit is from Christ – not just doing good to please men or to feel good about yourself
3. Doing right to glorify and please God in all that we do

IV. Paul Emphasized the Gospel to the Philippians (vs. 12-18)

A. His Chains

1. They were planned by God

Philippians 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

- a) God has a reason for all that He does
- b) Paul had accepted his situation as appointed by God
- c) The purpose of his chains being to spread the gospel

2. They would be productive

Philippians 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

- a) Paul would be chained to a soldier every day
- b) He would meet other prisoners as well
- c) Paul had the opportunity to witness to many people (the jailer back in Philippi was converted because of Paul)

3. They would encourage boldness

Philippians 1:14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- a) Paul's example to others gave them boldness to speak the gospel
- b) Paul's leadership encouraged others to follow his lead and set their fears aside

B. His Critics

Philippians 1:15-18 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

1. Paul is not speaking about those preaching a false doctrine
2. He is speaking about preachers and their motivations in their preaching
 - a) Some to further the cause of Christ
 - b) Some to further their own name or agenda
3. Comparison becomes the end result and there is a danger of envying others and continued strife between others
 - a) Some tend to criticize someone else who is doing things differently than you are or who seems to be doing better than you are
 - b) Why can't we have joy and happiness for someone else that God is using and blessing?

Historically the two great English evangelists John Wesley and George Whitefield disagreed about doctrinal matters. Both were very successful in their preaching ministries with thousands of people coming to Christ. It was reported that somebody asked Wesley if he expected to see Whitefield in heaven to which the evangelist replied, "No, I do not." "Then you don't think Whitefield is a converted man?" "Of course he is a converted man." Wesley stated that he didn't expect to see Whitefield in heaven because Whitefield would be close to the throne and Wesley himself would be so far away that he would not be able to see him.

4. Paul chose to rejoice if the gospel was being preached
 - a) Not every preacher will do things the same way or preach with the same motivation
 - b) We should not compare our ministry with others

V. Paul Shared His Thoughts with the Philippians (vs. 19-26)

A. His Optimism and his Source of Strength

Philippians 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

1. Paul knew that even though he was in prison that God had a purpose and a plan and that soon he would be delivered
2. Paul was dependent upon the prayers of the Philippians and upon the power of the Holy Spirit

B. His Hope and Expectation

Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

1. Paul hoped that through all of this difficulty that he would not be ashamed of any of his actions or responses
2. Paul wanted Christ to be magnified through his life whether it would continue or if he should die

C. His Goal for Life and His Gain in Death

Philippians 1:21-22 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

1. Paul's purpose for living was to serve Christ
2. Paul knew that life here on this earth was short and that there was eternal life to gain
3. Paul did not know whether he was going to be released or whether he was going to die – he did not prefer one over the other – He would let God decide – but he didn't want to choose what was best in his own flesh

D. His Desire compared to what would be Best

Philippians 1:23-24 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

1. Paul had a desire to be with Christ
2. Paul knew that for him to continue to live would be beneficial to those who loved him

E. His Words of Encouragement

Philippians 1:25-26 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

1. Paul wanted to help the Philippians as long as he was able
2. Paul knew that the Philippians had a desire to see him again

VI. Paul Challenged the Philippians (vs. 27-30)

A. Maintain a consistent testimony

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1. Conduct yourself as a Christian should
2. Remember that your citizenship is in Heaven

B. Work together

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1. Paul wanted them to stand together in sharing the gospel
2. Paul wanted them to strive together in sharing the gospel

C. Don't be afraid

Philippians 1:28-30 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

1. Paul challenged them to be courageous in spite of their enemies
2. The fact that they might suffer reminded them that God will judge those who were against them and also reminded them of God's provision of eternal salvation
3. Paul reminded them that part of walking with Christ would include suffering
4. Paul was in the midst of suffering persecution and was best suited to know how they would feel when suffering themselves

Philippians Chapter 2

Introduction

- Paul begins this chapter by dealing with the issue of pride and selfishness among the believers
- He had alluded to this problem in chapter 1
Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with **one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel;
- He uses Christ as an example of one who was clothed with humility
- Paul also uses himself and Timothy and Epaphroditus as an example

I. Paul's Challenge to them Regarding Strife (1-4)

A. The motivation to dwell in unity

Philippians 2:1-2 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be **likeminded**, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

1. Encouragement from knowing Christ
 - a) Consolation is to encourage and exhort
 - b) Very similar to the word used for the Holy Spirit – the Comforter called alongside to help
2. Comfort from the love of others
3. Fellowship of the Spirit
 - a) Partnership with the Holy Spirit
 - b) Participation with the Holy Spirit
4. Sympathy and pity for others
5. Desiring to bring joy
 - a) Fulfil means to fill up
 - b) Bring to realization and completion

B. The need for unity

Philippians 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

1. Be likeminded
 - a) To come to an agreement
 - b) To be in harmony – not every note is the same but they produce a pleasant sound when used together

- c) Wearing the same uniform does not mean that all on the team are in unity
 - 2. Have the same love for one another and others
 - 3. Be of one accord – having the same spirit – souls knit together
- C. The lack of unity

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through **strife** or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

 - 1. Avoid strife
 - a) The idea of putting yourself forward
 - b) Contention that can lead to anger
 - 2. Vainglory – self conceit
 - 3. Selfishness was the problem with its root being pride
- D. The cure for unity

Philippians 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

 - 1. Humility in our thinking
 - a) Look at others differently
 - b) In making comparisons – put others better than yourself
 - 2. Esteem – look at and value others
 - 3. Look on the things of others

II. The Example of Christ as a Humble Servant (5-11)

- A. Christ, our example

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

 - 1. To avoid strife with one another – let this be our mindset
 - 2. The mind of Christ is to be the mind of the Christian
- B. Christ, the Messiah

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

 - 1. Christ is emphasized being placed before Jesus
 - 2. Christ refers to the anointed Messiah
 - 3. Jesus refers to salvation
 - 4. Jesus was the promised Messiah, but He wasn't arrogant about this fact – He held the title with humility

C. Christ, very God

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

1. The God Man

a) Form – the outward expression of the inward nature

b) In the form of God and a servant (not half and half)

2. When Christ became a man, He did not empty Himself of being God, He clothed Himself in humanity

3. In becoming a man, Jesus did not cease to be God

4. He counted it not as a prize that He was equal with God

D. Christ, the Servant

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

1. Made Himself of no reputation – emptied Himself (kenos)

2. Christ did not give up being God, but He took upon the form of a servant instead of appearing in all of His glory as God

3. Jesus laid aside the use of His own attributes as God and became a human in a sinless, physical body

4. Jesus came to do the will of the Father – to serve Him

E. Christ, in the Flesh

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

1. Christ became in the shape and form of a man

2. Jesus became as a man with a body that made Him world conscious, a soul that made Him conscious of his personality and responsibilities and a spirit where he was God conscious

3. He was created as man was intended to be – fully controlled by the Holy Spirit

F. Christ, obedient unto death

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

1. Without constraint, Christ humbled Himself

2. He willingly gave His life as our Savior

3. He not only died but endured death on a cross

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the **shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

G. Christ, the name above all names

Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. Christ cannot be left on the cross – He is alive

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

2. Every knee will bow before Jesus

a) Those in Heaven include the saved as well as principalities, powers and the rulers of darkness of this world

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

b) Those on earth include all of those who here on earth have rejected Christ

c) Those under the earth include the unsaved dead who will be raised and summoned to the great white throne judgment

Revelation 20:11-13 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

3. Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord

H. Christ glorifying the Father

1. Christ came to do the will of the Father

John 17:4-5 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

2. Christ came not to glory in Himself, but to give glory to God

3. What a contrast to the earlier reprimand of vainglory!

III. Paul's Challenge to them Regarding Humility (12-18)

A. Called to work

1. Work out your salvation (work out a math problem to completion)

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

- a) Obedience must continue on whether or not someone is watching
- b) Salvation is a gift from God, it is not earned, but it is a commitment to being obedient to Christ and His Word
- c) We don't work for salvation, but we should work at it
- d) Work out emphasizes our responsibility to live a life that is pleasing to God

2. Allow God to work in you (yield to the Holy Spirit)

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

- a) We don't do this work on our own – God has given us His Spirit to lead us and guide us
- b) God working in us emphasizes God's enablement rather than our resources
- c) To will means that God gives us the desire and determination to please Him

B. Commanded to

1. Live without

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

- a) Murmurings – secret complaints
 - (1) We complain when we are discontent
 - (2) We complain when expectations are not met
- b) Disputings – suspicious questions
 - (1) We question the authority
 - (2) We think we are more knowledgeable

2. Be

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

- a) Blameless – free from fault or error
- b) Harmless – genuine and pure
- c) Without rebuke – without spot

3. Live in the world but not of the world

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

- a) Living with a good testimony in a corrupt world
- b) Shining as a bright light in a sinful world

C. Committed to finish rejoicing

Philippians 2:16-18 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

- 1.** Hold forth the Word of God for others to see
- 2.** Rejoicing that you have given it your best – your labor was not in vain
- 3.** An offering upon the sacrifice pictured the joy received in that sacrifice – Paul could rejoice in sacrificing himself for the Philippians
- 4.** The Philippians could also rejoice if Paul was sacrificed
- 5.** There is joy when we submit to Christ

Paul gives two human examples of those who demonstrated servant hood – it would be easy to feel like we could never compare ourselves to Christ the ultimate servant

IV. The Example of Timothy (19-24)

A. Paul's plan

Philippians 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

- 1.** He was going to send Timothy back to Philippi
- 2.** He would feel comfortable sending Timothy and hearing of their situation

B. Timothy's qualifications

Philippians 2:20-22 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

1. He would have a similar care for them just as Paul did
 - a) Timothy had the mind of a servant
 - b) Timothy had a genuine concern for them himself
2. There were others who were not considered for this job
 - a) Not all had this talent
 - b) Not all had the time
 - c) Not all had the appropriate temperament
3. He had a good reputation with those at Philippi
 - a) Timothy was no longer a novice
 - b) Timothy had grown in Christ
4. He had served with Paul
 - a) Timothy had been taught by Paul
 - b) Timothy had gained much experience

C. Paul's Hope

Philippians 2:23-24 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

1. Paul would send Timothy as his replacement
2. Paul hoped to also be able to see them in person

V. The Example of Epaphroditus (25-30)

A. The gifts delivered by Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

1. Epaphroditus had brought a gift to Paul from the church at Philippi

Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.
2. Paul was going to send Epaphroditus back to Philippi with this letter

B. The character of Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

1. A brother in Christ to Paul (Timothy is described as a son)
2. A fellow laborer – working hard

3. A fellow soldier – suffering much
4. A faithful messenger who volunteered to make the journey to Rome to deliver the gifts
5. A servant caring for the needs of Paul

C. The sickness of Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:26-27 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

1. He was concerned that his friends and family were worried about him since they would have heard about his sickness
2. His sickness almost killed him but God healed him
3. God spared Paul more sorrow over losing a friend

D. The journey of Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:28-29 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

1. Paul would send him back so that they would be relieved to know that Epaphroditus was well
2. Paul wanted the believers to know that he himself was well too
3. Paul's concern for the Philippians was greater than his need to retain Epaphroditus to help him
4. Paul knew that Epaphroditus was precious to them (reputation)

E. The spirit of Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

1. Epaphroditus was more concerned about the work of Christ than his own life
2. The only lack in this visit was for Paul and the Philippians to see each other face to face

Philippians 3

I. Paul's Warning Regarding Requiring Circumcision for Salvation (1-3)

A. Paul's teachings were worth repeating

Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

B. Paul warns of dangers

Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

1. The dogs (those causing trouble) would come and deceive the sheep
2. These evil workers were false teachers
3. The concision were those still practicing circumcision and those requiring it for salvation

C. Paul reminds them about circumcision

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

1. The act of circumcision had become a ritual in just differentiating between the Jew and Gentile
2. Circumcision was no longer needed in the new covenant – faith in Christ is all that is needed for salvation – no rituals
3. One of the things that was being taught was that you had to become a Jew in order to become a Christian

II. Paul's Own Testimony included Circumcision (4-6)

A. He had a good genealogy

Philippians 3:4-5 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

1. Paul himself could have based his salvation on the fact that he had been circumcised
2. Paul came from a religious Jewish family

B. He had a good education

Philippians 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

1. Paul was a Pharisee – he had the highest level of religious education
 2. Paul had kept the Jewish traditions and laws
- C. He had zeal
- Philippians 3:6** Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
1. Not only did Paul have strong beliefs, but he had a zeal in persecuting the opposition
 2. He had persecuted Christians who believed that Jesus was the Messiah

III. Paul's Personal Accomplishments (7-14)

- A. Those actions counted as loss
1. Religious activity

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

 - a) In the sight of others Paul had been exemplary, but in the sight of God, Paul's outward actions had failed to provide salvation
 - b) Those religious actions were counted as nothing for Christ
 2. Personal possessions

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

 - a) He had given up many comforts in order to preach Christ
 - b) Possessions and comforts were nothing compared to knowing Christ as his Lord and Savior
- B. Those things that he desired
1. To be found in him

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

 - a) God sees us when He sees Christ righteousness in us
 - b) Salvation is received by believing in Christ not trying to earn it with good works
 2. To know him

Philippians 3:10-11 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made

conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

- a) To know someone is much different than to have met someone
- b) To know someone requires a genuine interest in them and considerable time spent with them
- c) To know the power of His resurrection, His rejection by others and to understand His love for us is why He died
- d) Knowing Christ is the precursor to being raised again

C. Those goals ahead

Philippians 3:12-14 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- 1. Be honest with yourself
 - a) Even though he had many accomplishments, there was much more to do
 - b) He didn't feel like he had accomplished all that God had for him to do
 - c) We must not compare ourselves to others but to Christ
- 2. Forget the past
 - a) Thank God for what has been accomplished in the past
 - b) Don't let the past hinder you from doing more in the future
- 3. Press for the prize
 - a) His motivation for continuing was the cause of Christ
 - b) We cannot run on our own strength, we must rely on Him

IV. Paul's Encouragement (15-21)

A. Be spiritually minded

Philippians 3:15-16 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

- 1. Those who are already in the race – have the same goal to press for the prize
- 2. Those who are not in the race – start now
- 3. Those in the race should have the same heavenly goals

B. Look to an example

Philippians 3:17-19 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

1. Paul himself was a good example for them to follow
2. Paul warned of others who were bad examples to follow

C. Remember our home

Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1. Our citizenship is in heaven
2. Our King is in heaven
3. Our body will be changed in heaven

Philippians 4

I. Paul Addresses a Specific Situation (1-5)

A. He reassures them of his love

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

1. His brothers and sisters in Christ
2. He dearly loved them
3. He longed to see them
4. They brought him joy
5. They were a symbol of honor to him

B. He mentions two ladies by name

Philippians 4:2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

C. He publicly reminds them to be of the same mind

1. Of the same mind working together

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

2. Of one accord

Philippians 2:2-4 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

D. He encourages the church to be helpful to them

Philippians 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

1. Those in the church who were partners and yoked together should be helpful in this situation
2. They should all be laborers together in this matter
3. He reminds them that although there is an issue all are true believers with their names in the book of life

E. He encourages them to be happy

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

- F.** He urges them to consider their testimony
Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
1. Moderation has to do with their gentleness and appropriateness – handle this matter with care
 2. The Lord is near and He is watching how you will react and respond

II. Paul Addresses Our Thinking and Our Minds (6-9)

- A.** Don't worry about anything
Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
1. Don't worry or be anxious about anything
 2. Don't spend time thinking about your problems
- B.** Pray about everything
Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
1. Prayer and supplication – making requests
 2. Thanksgiving – showing appreciation
 3. Make your requests to God – that should be our first step
- C.** Have peace in your heart
Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
1. Peace that comes from God which is superior to human understanding
 2. A mind that is free from worry
- D.** Change your thinking
Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
1. Things which are true
 2. Things which are honest – meaning grave, demanding the highest respect and honor (giving weight or value to something)
 3. Things which are just – fair
 4. Things which are pure – clean

5. Things which are lovely – friendly toward and kind
6. Things of good report – well spoken of

E. Continue on – do these things

Philippians 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

1. That which you have learned yourself
2. That which you have received from teaching
3. That which you have heard but maybe not necessarily learned
4. That which you have seen in me as an example

III. Paul Acknowledges the Gift from the Philippians (10-19)

A. Paul spoke of a financial gift from the Philippian church

Philippians 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

1. He gave praise to the Lord for the provision
2. Flourished – such as a plant that has sprouted again (spring flowers)
3. This had not been there first time to send a gift
4. The needs of a prisoner were not cared for by the government but by his friends and family
5. They had been careful to think of him and desirous to do something but had waited for the right opportunity or for someone to travel and deliver the gift

B. Paul spoke of his personal situation

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

1. He did not want to emphasize his needs rather their generosity
2. He did not want them to feel obligated to give nor coerced into doing more
3. He had learned to be content with what God had provided

C. Paul spoke of the ups and downs of life

Philippians 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

1. To be abased means to be brought low, humbled, depressed
2. To abound means to be overflowing, to have in abundance

- 3. He as not going to panic in the extreme situations
 - a) Full or hungry
 - b) To have in abundance or to be in need
- D. Paul gave the secret of contentment

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

 - 1. He could live through both the good and the bad
 - 2. His strength was not his own – it came from Christ
- E. Paul thanks them for their financial gift
 - 1. He thanks them for seeing his needs

Philippians 4:14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

 - a) They had done well
 - b) They had participated by helping to meet his needs (pressures)
 - c) Others had failed to help

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

 - d) They had helped him several times while he was in Thessalonica

Philippians 4:16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.
 - 2. He equated their gifts to him as a heavenly investment

Philippians 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.
 - 3. He acknowledges their generosity

Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

 - a) He speaks of having plenty not wanting to seem ungrateful or desiring more from them
 - b) He acknowledges Epaphroditus as delivering the gift
 - c) He speaks of their sacrifice to him as being well pleasing unto God as a wonderful smell
- F. Paul reminded them of the great supplier

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

IV. Paul's Final Words (20-23)

A. All glory should go to God

Philippians 4:20 Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

B. Salutations and greetings to all

Philippians 4:21-22 Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

C. Grace to all

Philippians 4:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.