

Paul and Philippi

Intro

Paul's relationship with Philippi

Phil 1:1-11

- Paul's *relationship* with the Philippian church is the foundation for all the theology and exhortation of this letter.

The ministry team

- Silas -
- Luke -
- Timothy -

The revolution begins

Paul and gang to Philippi ... no synagogue ... ladies by the river ... Lydia's conversion ... baptism in the Gangites ... **the gospel gets footing in Europe**
=> **the course of World History is altered!**

Acts 16:13-15

“Rome did not know it, but the flag of Christianity was unfurled in the Empire that day.”

-R. Kent Hughes, Preach the Word Commentary: Philippians, p.17

Acts 16:16

Paul imprisoned in Rome ... writes to Philippi ... Nero is emperor ... the great fire of 64 A.D. ... the great persecution ... the end of Paul and Peter ... but **not** the gospel mission.

Paul's prayers for Philippi

Phil 1:9-11

▶ **Other peoples' prayers for you tell you a lot**

- Paul's prayers are the seedbed for virtually everything he will admonish them to in the rest of the letter.

As Paul sits in his prison cell, what is he praying when thinks of Philippi? And how does that instruct them - *and us* - in our walk?

I. To learn how to walk in love and die to self-centeredness

Phil 1:9 "... that your love may abound more and more."

2. To grow in the practice of discernment

Phil 1:9 "... with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent...and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ."

- Many kinds of false teachings being propagated. Paul prays that they would not be led astray but would instead practice discernment.

3. To have a righteousness and fruitfulness that come through Christ

Phil 1:11 "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

"The 'fruit consisting of true righteousness' has not to do with circumcision or with any other measurable religious expression of law-keeping; rather it has to do with boasting in Christ and 'serving' by the Spirit, and thus being formed into God's own character, evidenced by the way one lives. When one is 'filled with the fruit' of this kind of righteousness, then one's life is characterized by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5.22-23)...."

-Gordon Fee, NICNT: Philippians, p.104

4. To have a God-centered vision for the Christian life

Phil 1:11 "... to the glory and praise of God."