

Philippians

Breakdown

- Philippians is the 6th epistle in the New Testament and was written by Paul to the church at Philippi which is located in modern day Greece.
- The Philippian Church had a special significance to Paul since it was the first church he founded in Europe.
- Paul wrote this letter around 62 A.D. while he was in prison in Rome approximately 10 years after his first visit to Philippi.

Main Points

- By the time Paul wrote to the Philippian Church, God's plan of redemption was well underway. Jesus had already come to the earth, sacrificed Himself on the cross, and was resurrected to make the way for us to be reconnected with God, enjoying the blessings and authority that come with our connection to Him.
- Even though Jesus has already provided those things for us, we still find ourselves in difficult situations that are clearly not God's best for us. The Kingdom of God has come, but it is also still coming. As believers, we are redeemed, but we must keep "pressing on" as Paul encouraged the Philippian Church to do. Even though we experience troubles now, we can rejoice, knowing that we are citizens of heaven, and that will soon be our reality.

Did you know?

- Paul said that *"living means living for Christ but dying is even better."* He was torn between wanting to die and be with Jesus or to live and help others grow in their faith. Which did Paul decide to do and why?
- Paul said there is one person that he can count on, who has served him in preaching the good news like a son with his father. Who was Paul talking about?
- Paul said there is one thing that he never gets tired of telling believers, so they remember how to safeguard their faith. What does he tell them?
- Worrying about things is something Paul said we should never do. What did he say we should do instead?
- When Paul first brought the Good News to the believers in Philippi, they were the only ones who gave him a particular type of help. What did they do for him?
- No book of the Bible focuses more on joy than Philippians. How many times do you read the words joy or rejoice in this book?

Further Thought

- Philippians is known as the epistle of joy based on Paul's attitude in this letter, even though he was writing from prison. How can we have the same kind of joy Paul, and why is it important for us to live joyfully?
- Paul said that everything in his life that he had previously considered valuable, he now considers worthless compared with the infinite value of knowing Jesus. Do you follow Paul's example of making knowing Jesus the most important thing in your life? What can we change to make knowing Jesus our priority?