

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson ONE – Philippians 1:1-11
The Opening Prayer

Look for the answer to these questions:

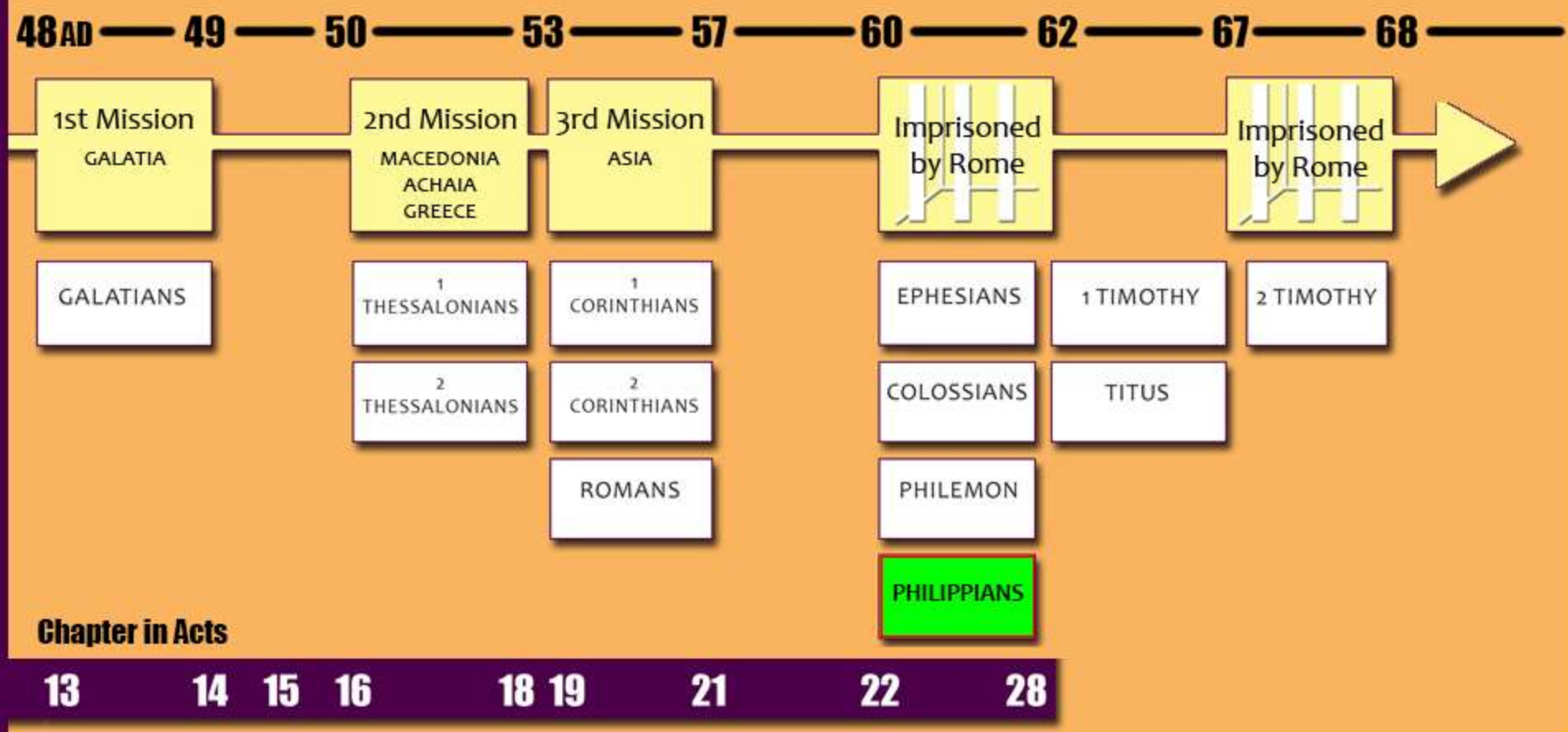
1. Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians during his a) first mission b) second mission c) third mission OR d) imprisonment in Rome?
2. What chapter in Acts tells us of Paul's mission to Philippi?
3. What are the two positions of church authority named in verse 1?
4. The chief elder of a church is called a _____.
5. The assistant to the chief elder is called a _____.
6. In Philippians 1:7, what are the two forms of presenting the gospel?

The next four questions are from Paul's prayer (1:9-11)

7. What must ABOUND in our lives if we want good knowledge and judgment?
8. What must ABOUND in our lives if we want to make good choices?
9. What must ABOUND in our lives if we want our words and deeds to match?
10. What must ABOUND in our lives if we want to be filled with righteous fruit?

Church historians believe that Paul's Epistle to the Philippians was the last church letter he wrote. It was written during his first imprisonment in Rome.

When did Paul write his letters?



The Epistle the Philippians has 4 CHAPTERS:

Chapter 1: PAUL'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE

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Chapter 4: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Chapter 1 has four parts:

Chapter 1: PAUL'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE

1. Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (1-11)
2. Paul's afflictions help spread the Gospel (12-18)
3. Paul's afflictions exalt the Lord (19-26)
4. Paul's exhortation to the afflicted (27-30)

A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:1

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:

The first verse says **who** wrote the letter and **where** it was sent:



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

There are 13 letters in the New Testament signed by Paul. Five of them are from **Paul and Timothy**:

1. 2 Corinthians
2. Colossians
3. 1 Thessalonians
4. Philemon
5. Philippians



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

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

Many of Paul's other letters begin,
"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ."
Here, he simply says that he and
Timothy are the servants of Jesus
Christ.



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:1

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:

A **saint** is a person set apart by God, washed by his blood, and sanctified by his Spirit.

Without Christ, “the best saints will appear sinners, and unable to stand before God” (said by the theologian Matthew Henry)



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

About ten years had passed since Paul first came to Philippi in response to the vision known as “The Macedonian Call.”





Acts 16:10-12

- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;
- ¹² 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.



In Philippi, Paul led the household of Lydia to Christ. After they freed a slave girl of an evil spirit, Paul and Silas were beaten and arrested. But an earthquake set them free, and they led their jailer to the Lord.

A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:1

- 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:

This is the only letter from Paul that specially greets the church elders – the bishops and deacons.



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

In modern times, the person who leads a congregation is usually called a **pastor**. But it is more correct to call that person a **bishop**.

The men and women who assist the bishop are **deacons**.



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with the bishops and deacons:

STRONG'S CONCORDANCE

BISHOP

ἐπίσκοπος episkopos
the superintendent, elder, or
overseer of a Christian church

DEACON

διάκονος diakonos
one who executes the
commands of another, esp. of a
master, a servant, attendant,
minister



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the servants of Jesus Christ,
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which are at Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons:

The only qualification for the five “gift ministries” in the church is an appointment by the Holy Spirit to that ministry.



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the servants of Jesus Christ,
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which are at Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons:

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles;
and some, prophets;
and some, evangelists;
and some, pastors and teachers;
¹² For the perfecting of the saints,
for the work of the ministry,
for the edifying of the body of
Christ:



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:1

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:

But the OFFICERS in the church (the bishops and deacons) are appointed according to a person's conduct.

Paul lists the qualifications for bishops and deacons in 1 Timothy 3.



The Qualifications of a BISHOP:

1 Timothy 3:1-7

¹ This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of **a bishop**, he desireth a good work.

² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

⁶ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

The Qualifications of a DEACON:

1 Timothy 3:8-13

- ⁸ Likewise *must* **the deacons** *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
- ⁹ Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
- ¹⁰ And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.
- ¹¹ Even so *must* *their wives be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

- ¹² Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.
- ¹³ For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:2

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

Paul now gives his favorite greeting.



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:2

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

There is no peace without grace;
there is no grace without Jesus.



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:3-5

- 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
- 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,
- 5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

His prayer begins with thanksgiving.



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:3-5

- 3 **I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,**
- 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,
- 5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

The best way to show thankfulness for your friends and family is by praying for them.



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4 **Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,**

5 **For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;**

Since the day they met, Paul had made prayerful intercession for the Christians in Philippi.



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:6

⁶ 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:

He knew that the Lord would
remain faithful to them.



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:7-8

- 7 Even as it is meet [right] 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.
- 8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

Paul is very free in expressing his affection for these Christians.



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They had been faithful to him also, even now that he was held in a Roman prison.



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The presentation of the Gospel comes through the DEFENCE and the CONFIRMATION of eternal truth.



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The word DEFENCE is translated from the Greek work *apologia*, meaning “speaking in defense.”



Acts 21:40 and 22:1

- ⁴⁰ And when he had given him licence,
Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned
with the hand unto the people.
And when there was made a great silence,
he spake unto *them* in the Hebrew
tongue, saying,
- ¹ Men, brethren, and fathers,
*hear ye my defence which I make now
unto you.*

The word DEFENCE is translated
from the Greek work *apologia*,
meaning “speaking in defense.”

Apologetics is giving a reason
for why you believe what you
believe.



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CONFIRMATION:

Something that gives evidence; proof; convincing testimony.



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CONFIRMATION:

Something that gives evidence; proof; convincing testimony.



Romans 15:8

⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to **confirm** the promises *made* unto the fathers:

CONFIRMATION:

Something that gives evidence; proof; convincing testimony.



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:9-11

- ⁹ And this I pray,
that your love may abound yet more and
more in knowledge and *in all* judgment;
- ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are
excellent;
that ye may be sincere and without
offence till the day of Christ;
- ¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of
righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ,
unto the glory and praise of God.

There is much we can learn from
Paul's prayer.



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Christian love is the cornerstone of all good knowledge and judgment.



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unto the glory and praise of God.

Love leads you to make the best
choices.



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righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ,
unto the glory and praise of God.

When your love abounds, what you
SAY will agree with what you DO.

1 John 3:18

- ¹⁸ My little children,
let us not love in word,
neither in tongue;
but in deed and in truth.



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offence** till the day of Christ;
- ¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of
righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ,
unto the glory and praise of God.

When your love abounds, you will
not be a stumbling stone to others.

1 Peter 3:10-11

- ¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see
good days, let him refrain his
tongue from evil, and his lips that
they speak no guile:
- ¹¹ Let him eschew [turn from] evil,
and do good;
let him seek peace, and ensue it.



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more in knowledge and *in all judgment*;
- ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are
excellent;
that ye may be sincere and without
offence till the day of Christ;
- ¹¹ **Being filled with the fruits of
righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ,
unto the glory and praise of God.**

When love abounds in your life,
the fruits of righteousness will also
abound.

John 15:8

- ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified,
that ye bear much fruit;
so shall ye be my disciples.



A. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:9-11

- ⁹ And this I pray,
that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;
- ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent;
that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;
- ¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Let us pray for ourselves and for one another for the grace of God that will cause our love to abound!



Chapter 1: PAUL'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE

1. Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (1-11)
2. **Paul's afflictions help spread the Gospel** (12-18)
3. Paul's afflictions exalt the Lord (19-26)
4. Paul's exhortation to the afflicted (27-30)



UP NEXT

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians during his a) first mission b) second mission c) third mission OR d) imprisonment in Rome?
2. What chapter in Acts tells us of Paul's mission to Philippi?
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The next four questions are from Paul's prayer (1:9-11)

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Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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