

# PAULINE EPISTLES

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## PAUL'S PRISON ACTIVITIES

- Dr. Luke gave us some of the lists of Paul's activities during his two years imprisonment in Rome which includes:
- Receiving visitors from all over the world (**Acts 28:30**)
- Preaching the kingdom of God (**Acts 28:31**)

### RECEIVING VISITORS

- Some of the visitors that visited Paul in Roman prison were leaders from the churches he planted during his second missionary Journey.
- The successes from some of these visits produced three great letters to the churches in Ephesus, Colosae and Philippi as well as a personal letter to his friend Philemon making it four prison letters.

## THE FOUR PRISON LETTERS

- The book of Philippians
- The book of Ephesians
- The book of Colossians
- The book of Philemon
- Each of the Epistles above includes a clear internal reference of the writer's prison surroundings.

**(Eph. 3:1; 6:20,**

**Phili. 1:7, 13, 14, 17,**

**Col. 4:3, 10, 18;**

**Philemon 1, 9,10,13,23)**

## PAUL'S PRISON LOCATION AT THE TIME OF WRITING

- There are three schools of thought as to the prison location of Paul at the time of writing the prison epistles.

### SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

➡ CAESAREA                      ➡ EPHESUS                      ➡ ROME

- Caesarea and Ephesus have been suggested as Paul's possible location when he wrote the prison epistles because he spent two years also in Caesarea prison Acts 24:27
- The option of the other two locations will not be possible, because the opportunity to receive visitors and preach the gospel were limited during his prison time in Caesarea.
- The letter to the church in Philippi expresses hope for a favorable verdict which would have only been possible in Rome.

Phili. 1:25; 2:24, Philem. 23

## **PAUL'S PRISON LOCATION AT THE TIME OF WRITING**

- Caesarea and Ephesus have been suggested as Paul's possible location when he wrote the prison epistles because he spent two years also in Caesarea prison Acts 24:27
- In the prison epistles, Paul expected the decision in his case to be final which would have been a verdict from Caesar.  
Phili. 1:20-23; 2:17, 23
- But in Caesarea, Paul appealed his case to Caesar which means Rome would have been the perfect location of writing.
- Again, Dr. Luke would have indicated in the book of Acts like he did with other Epistles if Caesarea was the actual location of writing the prison epistles.
- Since we have established these unique facts, let's take these Epistles one after the other starting with the letter to the Church in Philippi

# THE PRISON EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH IN PHILIPPI

- To understand what brought about this letter, we will implore the advise of Paul in 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH”.
- The church in Philippi was planted by Paul during his second missionary Journey.

**Summary of his second mission journey**



# PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Syria → Antioch

Cicilia → Tarsus

Lystra  
Derby

Galatia

Philippi  
Thessalonica  
Berea

Macedonia

Athens  
Corinth

Greece

Ephesus → Turkey

## PAUL'S FOLLOW UP EVANGELISM

- Paul visited the churches he planted in Galatia. Acts 16:1 during his first missionary Journey.
- Jerusalem council letter was delivered to those churches he planted Acts 16:4-5
- In Lystra, he harvested Young Timothy Acts 16:2-3
- Timothy joined the team of Evangelists
- The Holy Spirit asked them to leave Asia Acts 16:6
- He received the Macedonia call in Troas Acts 16:9
- Dr. Luke joined the missionary team of Paul in Troas Acts 16:10
- Paul sailed into Europe Acts 16:11-12



## PAUL IN PHILIPPI

- In Philippi, Paul got Lydia, his first European convert Acts 16:14
- The Girl with the spirit of Divination was delivered in Philippi Acts 16:16-18
- Paul arrested and received 39 Stripes in Philippi Acts 16:23, 2 Cor. 11:24
- Paul and Silas cast into the Prison in Philippi Acts 16:24-25
- The Jailor and his household became Christians in Philippi Acts:30-33
- Paul declared his Roman Citizenship in Philippi Acts 16:37
- Those who believed in Philippi congregated and became a Church. That was how the church in Philippi was born.
- Some of the elders from this church were the ones that visited Paul in Rome.

## VISITORS FROM THE CHURCH IN PHILLIPI

- The church in Philippi was the first Church planted by Paul on the European soil, in the province of Macedonia in our present day Greece
- Upon learning that Paul had been imprisoned in Rome, the church in Philippi sent Epaphroditus one of their leaders to Rome.

Philip 2:25

- They sent him with some financial aid for their Pastor and brother Paul . **Philippians 4:18-19**
- Epaphroditus after the visit returned to the church in Philippi with an appreciation letter( The book of Philippians) from Paul to the church for their support. **Philippians 4:10-18**
- Epaphroditus also used that opportunity to furnish with some of the challenges of the Church in Phillipi. **Phi 3:1-3, 4:2**

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## VISITORS FROM THE CHURCH IN PHILLIPI

- He also informed him that the church was facing opposition from the outside as well as a fair amount of strife and division from within
- In that letter Paul prayed for them and also poured his heart to them in sermons about Christ and Christianity

## THE PURPOSE FOR THE LETTER TO THE PHILLIPI CHURCH

- To thank the Philippian Church for their financial aid in the time of his need. **Philip 4:10,18-19**
- That was not the first time this church have extended their Macedonia handshake to Paul **2 Cor. 11: 9, Phili. 4:15-16**
- This letter was also a response to other things Epaphroditus reported to Paul that was happening in the church Phi 3:1-3, 4:2
- He then uses this opportunity of their visit to admonish them to have confidence in spite of all his troubles and theirs as well.
- He pleaded with them to have the humble attitude of Christ, not to be controlled by selfish ambition and pride. Phil. 2:1-30 (**verse 5**)
- He reminds them that their life in Christ was a gift of grace and not of the obedience of ceremonies of the Jewish laws.
- The letter lays emphasis on Joy, confidence, unity and perseverance in Christ

# THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF PHILLIPIANS

- Introduction 1:1-7
- Christ the Christians life: Rejoicing in spite of suffering.  
Phil. 1:8-30
- Christ the Christian pattern: Rejoicing in Lowly Service.  
Phil. 2:1-30
- Christ the object of the Christian Faith: Desire and  
Expectation. Phil. 3:1-21
- Christ the Christian Strength: Rejoicing through Anxiety.  
Phil 4 :1-9
- Conclusion. Phil. 4:10-23

# PAUL'S SECOND AND THIRD MISSIONARY EPISTLES

- Having known from our previous lectures, Paul's Second and Third missionary Epistles are:
- Galatians
- I Thessalonians
- II Thessalonians
- I Corinthians
- II Corinthians
- Romans
- Philippians (one of the prison Epistles)
- Next week God helping us, we will continue with other Roman prison epistles.

THANKS AND GOD BLESS YOU