



Study Guide

Philippians 1:1-11

Background to Philippians

Philippi was located in Macedonia (modern northern Greece and southern Bulgaria/Yugoslavia) and was named for Philip II of Macedonia (356-336 BC), the father of Alexander the Great (334-323 BC). It was on a major trade route and at the edge of a fertile plain. It was also a Roman colony, where Roman soldiers retired, making it a place with strong ties to Rome.

Read Acts 16:6-40 - the beginning of the church of Philippi

Read Philippians 1:1-11

1. How are Paul's feelings toward the church of Philippi revealed in this passage?
2. Philippians 1:6 "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." What is the good work that Paul is talking about? When is that work complete? What is that "work" in us right now?
3. Verse 9 tells us Paul's prayer for the Philippians. He doesn't pray for them to have monetary wealth or fame. What does he pray for? If you could summarize what Paul wants for these Christians in one word, what word would you choose? Why?

4. What are the results of that prayer in verses 10-11? Should this be the goal for every follower of Jesus? What keeps us from moving in this direction?

5. The bottom line of the Christian life is summarized in the last part of verse 11 “to the glory and praise of God”. How has your life reflected “the glory and praise of God” that Paul prays? How has that changed over the last 5 years? The last year? The last month?

6. Paul shares his gratitude towards the church sharing in his ministry whether through imprisonment or regular gospel witness (v. 7). When have you had the church/Christians support you through a struggle?

7. How has the church/other believers helped you deepen your walk with Christ?

For next week: Read Philippians 1:12-30

