



## *Stand fast in One Spirit, with One Mind*

Phil. 1:27c

### **READING PLAN FOR THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS**

The church at Philippi was the first to be established in Macedonia. In my mind, there is no church to which Paul was more endeared and intensely loving towards than this one. There are no SHARP REBUKES like his letters to Corinth. Paul pours out his heart of LOVE and GRATITUDE to them, ENCOURAGES ONENESS, ASSURES them of their certain MATURATION, and highlights the ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST! Theologians have often referred to this letter as **"Paul's Letter of JOY"**. This book - if you master it - will SET YOU UP FOR GREAT BLESSING and GROWTH in your life. Below is the guide and THREE-WEEK reading I put together. Enjoy!

- Read the introductions to the book cited below. It's great to have this overview.
- Read each Scripture section twice a day, e.g., morning and evening.
- Throughout the day, as often as possible, meditate on the verses thoroughly.
- Reading the text is the first stage. Meditation and study are the next important stages.
- Cross reference verses with other verses in other books - if you have the time.
- Highlight and memorise as many verses as possible. Isolate a favourite verse in each chapter.
- Journal your thoughts in a book or digital file. Keep this record. God will use it later for you or for others. Be a source of refreshing of God's Word to your world.
- Be serious about reading, studying and meditating on God's Word, the Sword of the Spirit. As you do, you are installing the eternal, ageless and powerful nature of God within your being.
- By the power of His Word, you can overcome the devil, the world and the flesh.

### **INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS – NKJV BIBLE**

Paul writes a thank-you note to the believers at Philippi for their help in his hour of need, and he uses the occasion to send along some instruction on Christian unity. His central thought is simple: Only in Christ are real unity and joy possible. With Christ as your model of humility and service, you can enjoy a oneness of purpose, attitude, goal, and labor - a truth which Paul illustrates from his own life, and one the Philippians desperately need to hear. Within their own ranks, fellow workers in the Philippian church are at odds, hindering the work in proclaiming new life in Christ. Because of this, Paul exhorts the church to "stand fast . . . be of the same mind . . . rejoice in the Lord always . . . but

in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known . . . and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (4:1, 2, 4, 6, 7).

This epistle is called *Pros Philippesious*, “To the Philippians.” The church at Philippi was the first church Paul founded in Macedonia.

## **INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS – CWBS**

The city of Philippi was named for Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, who seized the city in 358 b.c. from the Thracians. Later, Octavius (Augustus Caesar) made Philippi a Roman colony. It was a principal city on the great Egnatian Way which extended from Rome to Byzantium, and traders from both eastern and western countries stopped there often. This made it a strategic place for the spreading of the gospel.

In the early portion of Paul's second missionary journey, the Lord indicated that He wanted Paul to preach the gospel in Macedonia (Acts 16:9, 10). Apparently there were no synagogues in the city because on the Sabbath, Paul went out of the city and down to the bank of the river where he found Lydia and a number of other women who accepted what Paul had to say (Acts 16:13, 14). After Lydia and her family had been baptized, she asked Paul and his companions to stay at her house (Acts 16:15). Later, Paul and Silas were imprisoned for casting the unclean spirit out of a slave-girl (Acts 16:16-25). This led to the salvation of the jailer and his family (Acts 16:26-34).

Paul may have visited them again when he journeyed from Ephesus to Macedonia, because he spent the spring with them (Acts 20:1, 6; 2 Cor. 2:12, 13). The church that Paul established there was probably the first in all of Europe. The Apostle Paul is thought to have written this letter to the Philippians during his first Roman imprisonment (ca.a.d. 60-62). Paul, who was a tentmaker by trade (Acts 18:3), ordinarily refused to receive any financial assistance from the churches (2 Cor. 11:7-9). However, he did accept gifts from the Philippian brethren when he was in Thessalonica (Phil. 4:16, 18). Epaphroditus brought another gift to Paul during his imprisonment in Rome (Phil. 4:18). While Epaphroditus was there, he became severely sick and nearly died. He did recover, however, and carried this letter back to Philippi (Phil. 2:25-30).

Although there is no development of one particular theme, the concept of the all-sufficiency of Christ is found throughout the book. Christ gives meaning to life and causes people to serve Him even to their death (Phil. 1:20, 21).

## THREE-WEEK READING PLAN - "O HOW I LOVE THY LAW"

### PHILIPPIANS – PAUL'S LETTER OF JOY!

BEFORE you start this reading plan, A VERY GOOD IDEA WOULD BE TO READ THROUGH **ACTS CHAPTER 16** - which documents how Paul came into the city of Philippi and started the church there.

11 October	Monday	Phil. Chapter 1
12 October	Tuesday	Phil. 1:1-11
13 October	Wednesday	Phil. 1:12-18
14 October	Thursday	Phil. 1:19-26
15 October	Friday	Phil. 1:27-29
16 October	Saturday	Phil. Chapter 2
18 October	Monday	Phil. 2:1-4
19 October	Tuesday	Phil. 2:5-12
20 October	Wednesday	Phil. 2:12-18
21 October	Thursday	Phil. 2:19-24
22 October	Friday	Phil. 2:25-30
23 October	Saturday	Phil. Chapter 3
25 October	Monday	Phil. 3:1-11
26 October	Tuesday	Phil. 3:12-16
27 October	Wednesday	Phil. 3:17-21
28 October	Thursday	Phil. Chapter 4
29 October	Friday	Phil. 4:1-7
30 October	Saturday	Phil. 4:8-9
2 November	Monday	Phil. 4:10-23

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Phil. 2:12-13

For I am confident of this thing that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil. 1:6