

A Chiastic Outline of Philippians

- A. Opening Greetings (1:1-2)
- B. Thanksgiving & Prayer (1:3-11)
- C. Proclaiming Christ Amidst Opposition (12-18)
- D. Magnifying Christ (1:19-26)
- E. Striving & Suffering for Christ (1:27-30)
- F. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:1-11)
- G. Work out Your Salvation (2:12-16)
- F'. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:17-30)
- E'. All things for Christ (3:1-11)
- D'. Pressing toward the Goal in Christ (3:12-16)
- C'. Standing Firm Amidst Opposition (3:17-4:7)
- B'. Meditating & Rejoicing (4:8-20)
- A'. Closing Greetings (4:21-23)

To the Philippians

Philippians, Part I

Philippians 1:1-2

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I. To us or for us? (cf. 1 Jn 2:18-19)

The biblical authors wrote at a specific time in history to a specific group of God’s people to address specific issues that they were facing. In order to understand and apply the Bible rightly, we have to keep the original setting in mind; to remember that the biblical author was not writing _____ us but that he most certainly was writing _____ us.

II. Bondservants of Christ (cf. Acts 9:1-19; Gal 1:11-12)

III. All the Saints who are in Philippi (cf. Acts 16:6-39)

Paul’s title, _____, invites us to highlight God’s sovereign, powerful grace among the Philippians. Luke has recorded the work of the Gospel in Philippi in order that we might learn about God’s work in our own community and in our own lives, that we might render appropriate thanks and praise to God for His work.

A. The Holy Spirit did not permit them... (16:1-10)

Luke’s story of the Gospel entering Europe teaches us that God is the One who directs the course of the Gospel throughout world history.

R.C.H. Lenski, a Lutheran New Testament commentator, writes, *“Joy is the music that runs through this epistle, the sunshine that spreads over all of it. The whole epistle radiates joy and happiness”* (691). Paul delighted in the Philippians and wanted them to excel still more – and the foundation of that excelling is understanding how profoundly dependent we all are on the grace of God.



B. The Lord opened her heart... (16:11-15 cf. Phil 1:29)

Not only is God involved in spreading the Gospel on the global level. He is also involved in giving individuals ears to hear what those preachers are saying. He it is who gives _____.

C. In the Name of Jesus Christ, come out of her! (16:16-24)

D. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ... (16:25-34)

What the magistrates meant for evil, God intended for good, to bring this man to faith. This is the way God works. Even in the midst of opposition, His Gospel acts like leaven, slowly penetrating and permeating communities.

E. They encouraged them and departed (16:35-40 cf. 20:5,6)

Luke's account reminds us that God's work in Philippi didn't end with Paul's departure.

IV. Together with the Overseers and Deacons

Overseers (episkopoi) – bishops, elders (cf. Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Tim 3:1ff)

Deacons (diaconoi) – deacons, ministers (cf. Acts 6:1ff; 1 Tim 3:8-13)

V. Conclusion