Philippians 1-2

Great job, but there’s so much more to do!

1. **Background (Acts 16):**
2. Philippi is in Macedonia (Greece), across the Aegean Sea from Turkey.
3. Philippi may have been the first congregation of the Lord’s people established in Europe.
4. While Galatia is a huge area containing multiple congregations where Paul sacrificed greatly, Philippi is a single congregation (Philippians 1:1).
5. Read Acts 16 for background and evidence of these matters.
6. Who pleaded with Paul in “the Macedonian call”? Who could this have been?
7. Where did they immediately head to?
8. Who was the first person named in the area of Philippi?
9. When they were released from prison, where did Paul and Silas go to, apparently where they encouraged the brethren?
10. **Philippians 1:**
11. V.1-2, Salutation.

* Servants - NT:1401 dou=lov$ doulos (doo'-los); from NT:1210; a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency):KJV - bond (-man), servant. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006, 2010 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)
* Philippi – in Greek it is Philippoi (fil’-ip-poy), which is the plural form of Philippos, meaning “fond of horses.” (Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance)

1. V.3-11, Paul’s gratitude and prayers for the Philippians:

* “I thank” NT:2168 eu)xariste/w eucharisteo (yoo-khar-is-teh'-o); from NT:2170; to be grateful, i.e. (actively) to express gratitude (towards); specially, to say grace at a meal: - (give) thank (-ful, -s). (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance.)
* Who says that every time they think of us they give God thanks for our conviction as Christians? Who says they long for us with affection? Christian Bonding
* His prayer is simply that they will succeed in their obedience to God, found faithful in the End.
* We must be careful in what we APPROVE of, Romans 1:32 “who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” NKJV
* Sincerity and not causing offense to others are also in Paul’s prayer. We must worship in spirit (sincerity) and Truth (by God’s authority), John 4:24, and what should happen to those that cause offense, stumbling, sin? Matthew 18:6, deep sea swimming with a millstone necklace!
* Being filled with the fruits of righteousness. Would you buy a carton only half-filled with product? We should be overflowing with the works of obedience, I Corinthians 15:10; 11:1.

1. V.12-18, Christ is preached and some preachers of Truth are motivated by wickedness.

* Paul is tempted and tried, but it promotes the Word of God. Do our trials work out that way?
* The whole palace guard sees that Paul is chained for preaching the Truth; not for lawlessness.
* Brethren understanding this would typically become more timid and fearful, but Paul says they are emboldened. This is only so when they see the big picture of what there is to lose & gain.
* Why this sudden shift? Paul’s about to show his own example, then plea for unity and complete obedience to the Word of God, but he’s going to show them the sin of false bravado.
* Regardless of why they preach the Gospel, I’m glad it is preached! That’s amazing!

1. V.19-26, what would you give in exchange for your life? What is your life worth?

* “my deliverance” – from prison, or from life itself! Do we have no reason to be ashamed?
* Christ magnified in our body – the key to a consistent life of obedience. Romans 12:1-2
* “What I shall choose” – he clearly chooses either but prefers life…for their sakes.
* To depart far better – Our death should be a day of great rejoicing for the faithful…in Heaven.
* Paul wants to be able to come see them. How important is meeting with the saints to us?

1. V.27-30, fight the good fight and let nothing hinder our stand for God and His Word.

* Conduct WORTHY of the Gospel – Obedience without exception or compromise.
* Complete unity – one spirit, one mind, striving for the faith, Ephesians 4:4-6, I Corinthians 1:10
* It’s granted them (us) to suffer for His sake – rejoice to be counted worthy to suffer! Acts 5:41

1. **Philippians 2:**
2. **V.1-4, unity through self-abasement**

* Find the encouragement in the Gospel and focus on it.
* Absolute unity – like-minded, same love, one accord, OF ONE MIND. I Corinthians 1:10
* Proper perspective. Jesus died for them, too. I want to make sure they get to Heaven, too!

1. **V.5-11, look unto Jesus, our Example of humility and selflessness**

* Jesus, equal with God (John 1:1-3; 20:28), became a dried up root without any remarkable or desirable appearance, Isaiah 53:2.
* Bondservant – Remember DOULOS, Philippians 1:1? Paul & Timothy follow His example.
* Obedience unto death…on the cross. Romans 12:1-2, living sacrifice. Reasonable service.
* Therefore – Jesus was faithful in His obedience, He is exalted. Want to follow? Revelation 3:21
* Every knee bows. Every tongue confesses. Better now than later!

1. **V.12-18, being a light to this world**

* “You have always obeyed” – this is no time to let up – much diligence is yet required!
* “Work out your own salvation” – Not what seems right to you. YOU OBEYED! Just do it!
* His good pleasure – obedience seems difficult and trying to us, but it pleases Almighty God!
* What good does it do to complain or dispute? We aim to be FAULTLESS.
* We are in a society that tears us down and wants us to compromise or forsake.
* “That I have not run in vain” – I give my life to help you, so make sure it’s worthwhile investing!

1. **V.19-24, Timothy**

* “no one like-minded” – Timothy’s great commendation! Not seeking his own. No compromise.
* You know his character – word gets around about us all. Our service level is noted by others.
* I see how it goes with me – death, more prison, release…?

1. **V.25-30, Epaphroditus**

* Epaphroditus also gets a most excellent commendation.
* Hold such men in esteem – we should go out of our way to encourage examples in the faith.
* He came close to death because he covered for what the Philippians should have been doing.

1. **Summary and Conclusions:**
2. Of those few that do submit to God’s Word, some act out of ungodly motives.
3. Be the person & congregation that others literally thank God for every time they think of us.
4. Be the bonding agent of the faithful. Solidify, strengthen, shore up, encourage.
5. We should WANT to meet with the saints with more urgency than to stop and look to Heaven.
6. Nothing should hinder our stand for Truth. 2 Timothy 2:3-4 Is it granted to you to suffer for Jesus?

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

Hear the Gospel, John 5:24; Romans 10:17 Believe it, John 3:16-18; John 8:24

Repent Of Your Sins, Luke 13:35; Acts 2:38 Confess Jesus as Christ, Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10

Be Baptized, Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16 Remain Faithful for Life, John 8:31; Revelation 2:10

For The Erring Child of God:

Repent, Acts 8:22 🡪 Confess, I John 1:9 🡪 Pray, Acts 8:22

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