

Outline of
Philippians



Introduction

Authorship

Given the personal allusions and style, the vast majority of New Testament scholars accept Philippians as an authentic letter (or letters) by Paul.

Unity

Some scholars have divided Philippians up into smaller units (more common in the past than today). The division of Philippians is not impossible: short letters were often sent in antiquity, and Paul maintained regular contact with the Philippians. Conversely, letters often had multiple subjects, especially when they were as long as Philippians. Two factors ultimately support the letter's unity: (1) the burden of proof is on those who would divide it, because different letters are usually distinguishable in letter collections; (2) the arguments for division are based on modern letter-writing conventions that overlook ancient rhetorical and epistolary conventions.

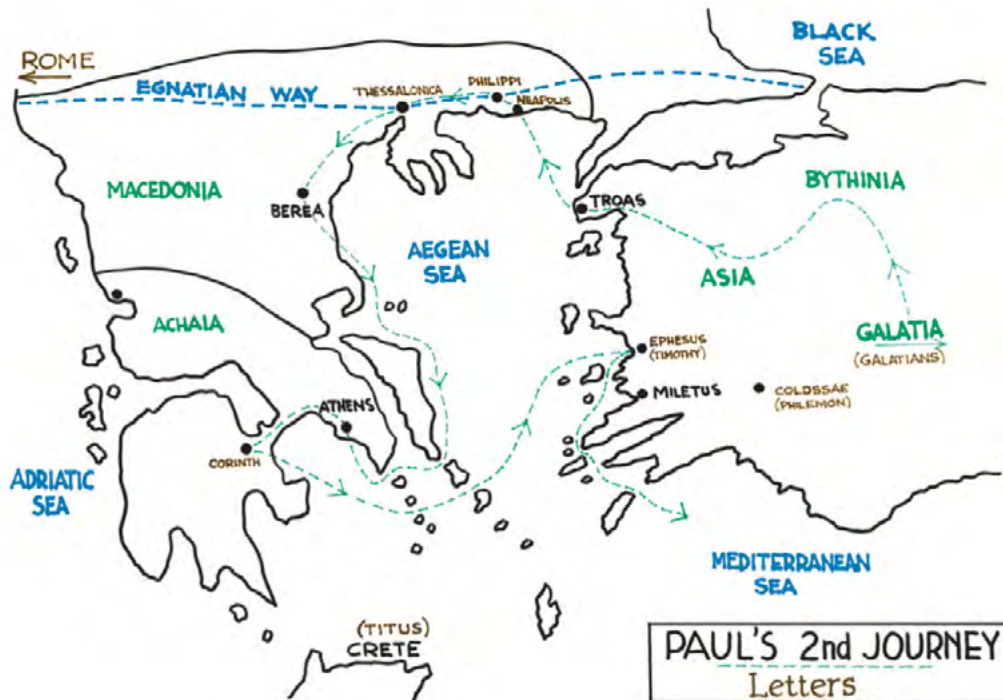
Structure

Chapter 1 addresses topics of Paul and the Philippians' common labor in the gospel (using motifs from ancient friendship letters). Chapter 2 provides models for imitation (in which he includes letters of recommendation). Chapter 3 includes a digression (common in ancient letters). Chapter 4 turns to the main business of the letter (a thank-you note eager to avoid any suggestions of the common ancient patron-client ideology).

Situation

Paul states that the purpose of Philippians is to thank them (4:10-20); but writing from prison (probably in Rome, as a majority of scholars think), he also wishes to address some other issues, including the likely further persecution the church will face and an exhortation to work together. As much as the Philippian church (probably made up of several house churches) loved Paul, its members were divided among themselves; thus the recurrent exhortations to unity (1:27; 2:2, 14) and mutual service (2:3-11). Exhortations to unity were commonplace in antiquity, but usually corresponded to genuinely present and no less common divisions. At least part of the division here revolves around disagreement between two of Paul's fellow laborers, possibly leaders of separate house churches (4:2-3). If opposition to Paul exists, it probably involves Jewish Christians who advocate circumcision, if Paul believes they have already arrived in Philippi (3:2-21).

Source: Keener, Craig S. (2014). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, Second Edition. InterVarsity Press.



PHILIPPIANS 3.

1. **REDEMPTION** ~ an experience to apply
 - a. God works it in
 - b. We work it out
2. **RIGHTEOUSNESS** ~ an end to pursue
 - a. Not ours: birth and life
 - b. But his: death and resurrection
3. **RESPONSIBILITY** ~ an effort to make
 - a. Forgetting about the past
 - b. Forging ahead to the future
4. **REPRODUCTION** ~ an example to follow
 - a. Bad: earthly minded
 - b. Good: heavenly minded
5. **RESURRECTION** ~ an event to desire
 - a. Out from the dead
 - b. With a new body

Chapter

1

Php 1:1-8 Paul testifies his thankfulness to God, and his love towards them, for the fruits of their faith, and fellowship in his sufferings;
Php 1:9-11 daily praying to him for their increase in grace;
Php 1:12-20 he shows what good the faith of Christ had received by his troubles at Rome;
Php 1:21-26 and how ready he is to glorify Christ either by his life or death;
Php 1:27 exhorting them to unity;
Php 1:28-30 and to fortitude in persecution.

Chapter

2

Php 2:1-11 Paul exhorts them to unity, and to all humbleness of mind, by the example of Christ's humility and exaltation;
Php 2:12-15 to a careful proceeding in the way of salvation, that they be as lights to the wicked world,
Php 2:16-18 and comforts to him their apostle, who is now ready to be offered up to God.
Php 2:19-30 He hopes to send Timothy to them, and Epaphroditus also.

Chapter

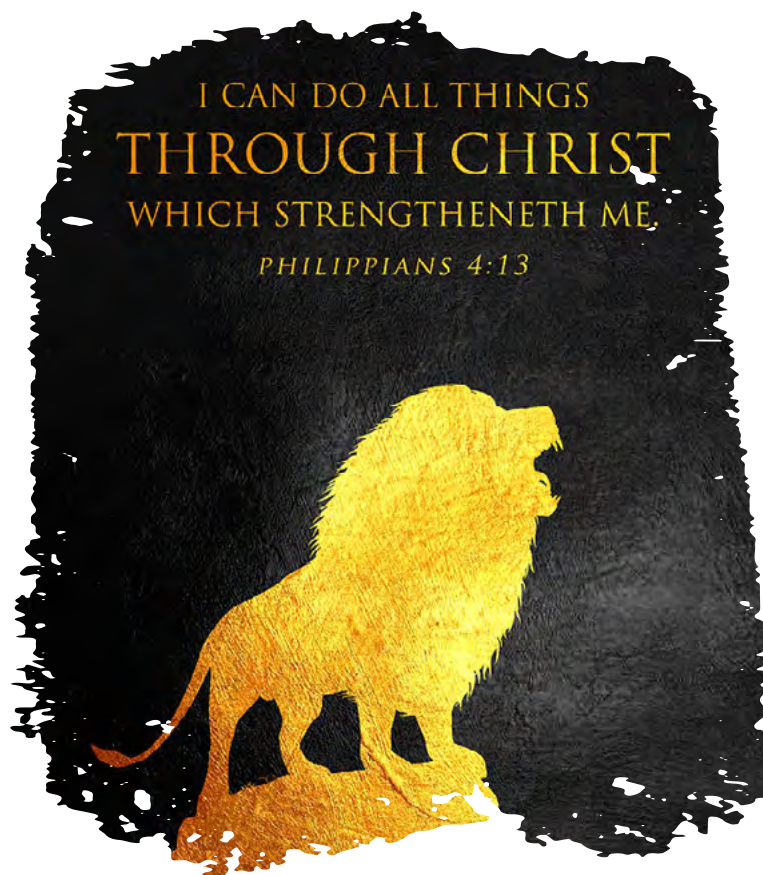
3

Php 3:1-3 He warns them to beware of the false teachers of the circumcision;
Php 3:4-6 shewing that himself has greater cause than they to trust in the righteousness of the law;
Php 3:7-11 which notwithstanding he counts as dung and loss, to gain Christ and his righteousness;
Php 3:12-14 therein acknowledging his own imperfection.
Php 3:15-16 He exhorts them to be thus minded;
Php 3:17 and to imitate him,
Php 3:18-21 and to decline the ways of carnal Christians.

Chapter

4

Php 4:1-3 From particular admonitions,
Php 4:4-9 he proceeds to general exhortations,
Php 4:10-18 shewing how he rejoiced at their liberality towards him lying in prison, not so much for the supply of his own wants as for the grace of God in them.
Php 4:19-23 And so he concludes with prayer and salutations.



Quiz on Philippians

1. Who was the physician/doctor named in Chapter 4?

2. According to Chapter 1, how did all things visible and invisible come into being?

3. In Chapter 3, on what should Christians set their affection?

4. Upon whom is the wrath of God coming?

5. According to Chapter 3, what could happen when fathers provoke their children to anger?

6. According to Chapter 2, what happened to the handwriting of ordinances that was against us?

7. When a Christian is baptized, it is symbolic of what?

8. In Chapter 4, what did Paul ask the Colossians to pray for him about?

9. Above all the other good qualities, what did Paul say to put on, in Chapter 3?

10. At the end of Colossians, what was Paul's message to Archippus?

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