

# Memory Verse

**Philippians 1:2**

**Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

The image features a circular teal graphic centered on a background of weathered, greyish-brown wood planks. The word "PHILIPPIANS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the teal circle. Below the text, a thin white horizontal line spans the width of the teal circle.

# PHILIPPIANS

---

# PHILIPPIANS

## Part 1

### Background and Introduction

# 3 Principles for Bible Study

**Observation:** What does the text say?

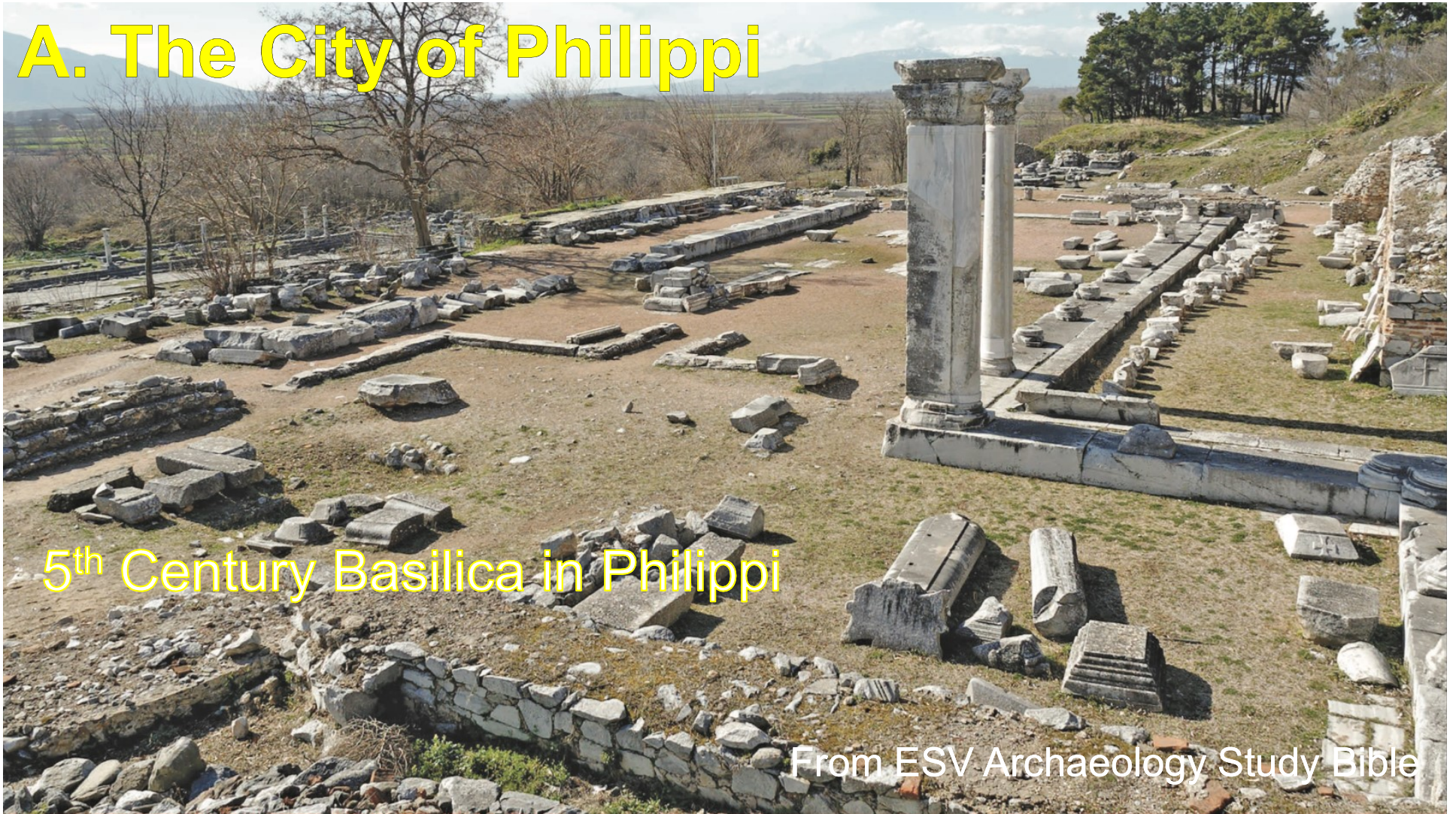
**Interpretation:** What does the text mean?

**Application:** What can I learn from this text?

# A. The City of Philippi

5<sup>th</sup> Century Basilica in Philippi

From ESV Archaeology Study Bible



## **A. The City of Philippi**

- Rome took over Macedonia in 168BC
- Divided into 4 districts
- Marc Antony settled soldiers here in 42BC
- Augustus refounded the city in 30BC
- Philippi was granted tax free status, and the people were given the opportunity to own land as a colony of Rome

A photograph showing a stone-paved path leading through a wooded area. The path is made of irregular, flat stones and is flanked by dense green foliage and trees. In the background, a coastal town is visible, situated on a hillside overlooking the sea. The sky is clear and blue.

Egnatian Way / Via Egnatia outside  
Neopolis

From ESV Archaeology Study Bible





## PHILIPPI IN THE TIME OF PAUL (C. A.D. 60)

The city plan below shows those features of the city of Philippi that archaeologists have so far identified as dating from the time of Paul. "Paul's Prison" is not believed to be an authentic site, but was a cistern later associated with Christian worship.



From ESV Study Bible

## **B. The Founding of the Assembly in Philippi**

**In Acts 16, Paul was on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey, roughly 50-53AD.**



From ESV Study Bible

## Acts 16:9-16

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.

## Acts 16:9-16

And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay."

## Acts 16:9-16

And she prevailed upon us. As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.

## Acts 16:29-40

And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

## Acts 16:29-40

Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly?"



## Acts 16:29-40

No! Let them come themselves and take us out.” The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

## C. Where was Paul?

Philippians 1:13 says Paul was in chains, or “house arrest.”

**Corinth** – 50AD, based on Acts 28:10

**Ephesus** – 53-55AD, because it was close to Philippi and he had difficulties there.

**Caesarea** – 58-59AD, Praetorian Guard were part of Caesars household.

**Rome** – 60-62AD, was in house arrest.

## D. Date and Themes

Written about 62AD.

Probably Paul's most personal letter.

There are 5 themes are woven throughout  
Philippians, directly and indirectly:  
*thankfulness, joy, unity, humility, and  
suffering.*

## D. Date and Themes

**Thankfulness:** *Philippians 1:3* - I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

*4:14* - Yet it was *kind* of you to *share* my trouble.

**Joy:** *Philippians 1:4* - always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with *joy*,

*4:4* - *Rejoice* in the Lord always; again I will say, *rejoice*.

## D. Date and Themes

**Unity:** *Philippians 1:27* - Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in *one spirit*, with *one mind* striving *side by side* for the faith of the gospel,

*2:2* - complete my *joy* by being of the *same mind*, having the *same love*, being in full accord and of *one mind*.

*4:2* - I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to *agree* in the Lord.

## D. Date and Themes

**Humility:** *Philippians 2:3-4* - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in *humility* count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the *interests of others*.

He uses Jesus as an example of *humility* in *2:5-8*.

## D. Date and Themes

**Suffering:** 1:12-14 - I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my *imprisonment* is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my *imprisonment*, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

1:29 - For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also *suffer* for his sake,

3:8 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have *suffered* the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

## E. Outline

Based on *A Survey of the NT*, Robert Gundry, p. 470:

Introduction and Greeting – 1:1-2

1. Personal Matters – 1:3-26

Thanksgiving, prayer, and affection for those in Philippi – 1:3-11

Paul's preaching in prison, potential and readiness for release –  
1:12-26

2. Exhortations – 1:27-2:18

Having worthy conduct – 1:27-30

Unity by humility with Christ's example – 2:1-18



## E. Outline

3. Sending of Timothy and Epaphroditus – 2:19-30

4. Warning against False Teachers and a Short Autobiography – 3:1-21

5. Exhortations – 4:1-9

    Unity between Euodia and Syntyche – 4:1-3

    Joy and trust – 4:4-7

    Nobility of thought – 4:8-9

6. Thanks for Financial Help – 4:10-20

Conclusion: Greetings and Benediction – 4:21-23

## E. Philippians 1:1-2

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Servants** - “*doulos*,” which actually means “slave.” One who belongs to another, has no personal rights at all and one that willingly serves under the authority of another as a committed follower.

## E. Philippians 1:1-2

*To all the saints* – “*saints*” means “holy ones” or “set apart.” In the OT, it is used for faithful Jews. In the NT, primarily it refers to Jews who live faithfully under the New Covenant.

The term here may mean that, or both Jews and Gentiles living under God’s grace in Christ.

He wrote to the group, and also those who fulfilled the two roles: *overseers* and *deacons*.

## E. Philippians 1:1-2

*Overseers* – Used interchangeably with bishop, pastor, or elder.

*Deacons* – Servants or ministers. These individuals ran errands, or served in various capacities.

*Grace to you* – Live with, in, and based on God's grace.

3 words: *Lord* – Master, Owner, Sovereign. *Jesus* – Yeshua in Hebrew, Iesous in Greek. *Christ* means “Anointed One.”

**Jesus is Lord and the Anointed One or Messiah...**