

Philippians & Colossians

66 Books in 52 Weeks

(A Book-by-Book Overview of the Bible)

Summary & Structure of Philippians

PHILIPPIANS

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

11

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

4

TYPE

EPISTLE, PAULINE



OVERVIEW

Paul wrote this letter from house arrest in Rome to the church at Philippi. Paul had visited Philippi early in his ministry and he returned on his journeys years later. When the Philippians heard of Paul's house arrest, they sent a messenger Epaphroditus with supplies to minister to him. The messenger returns with this epistle, expressing Paul's gratitude and love. As one of the few books in the New Testament not written to provide correction, this letter contains encouragement and thanksgiving and is full of joy despite Paul's impending death.



WRITTEN
60-62 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED
All Eras in the Age of
Grace



AUTHOR
Apostle Paul

Key Passage in Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:4-5

Background of Philippians

The City: A Roman colony sometimes referred to as "Little Rome".

The Church: Planted by Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 16). The Philippian church supported Paul financially when he was ministering in Thessalonica (Philippians 4:15). Paul visited Philippi twice during this third missionary journey (Acts 20:1-6).

The Letter: Paul purpose in this letter was to explain his circumstances to those who were concerned, to report on Epaphroditus' ministry, to thank the Philippians for their support, and encourage them in their Christian life.

The Emphasis: The key word in Philippians is _____

Outline of Philippians

Joy in Living for Christ (Chapter 1)

Joy in Serving Christ (Chapter 2)

Two roadblocks to unity: Selfishness (Philippians 2:3) & Grumbling (Philippians 2:14).

Serving Christ begins with the right attitude: Humility (Philippians 2:5-7).

Serving Christ faithfully causes the right effect: Unity (Philippians 2:12-13).

Serving Christ can be modeled for others: Examples (Philippians 2:19-30).

Joy in Knowing Christ (Chapter 3)

To know Christ means we can rejoice! (Philippians 3:1)

To know Christ means we get our righteousness from Him, not ourselves (Philippians 3:9).

To know Christ means we get to press toward the goal of eternal life (Philippians 3:13-14).

To know Christ means understanding our real citizenship (Philippians 3:20).

Joy in Resting in Christ (Chapter 4)

Unity (Philippians 4:2)

Inner Peace (Philippians 4:6-7)

Contentment (Philippians 4:13, 19)

Summary & Structure of Colossians

COLOSSIANS

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

12

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

4

TYPE

EPISTLE, PAULINE



OVERVIEW

Paul wrote this epistle to the church in Colosse after reports were brought back that the church had fallen into serious error. The Colossian church was trying to mix Greek philosophy with Christian theology, resulting in an erroneous philosophy being taught that focused on perfection through mechanical means and sanctification through severe discipline from the physical world. Paul wrote to correct this by emphasizing sanctification through Jesus Christ and unity through Him.



WRITTEN
60-62 AD



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AUTHOR
Apostle Paul

Key Passage in Colossians

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Colossians 3:1-2

Background of Colossians

The Church at Colosse: Formerly a prosperous city, Colosse was a small market town by the Apostle Paul's day. The Church probably began while Paul was ministering in Ephesus.

The Mistake of the Colossian Christians: A group was teaching that faith alone in Christ wasn't enough for salvation. Paul's letter is a defense of the belief that faith in Christ alone is what saves a person.

Outline of Colossians

Christ is Our Lord (Chapters 1-2)

He is Lord of Creation (Colossians 1:1-17).

He is Lord of the Church (Colossians 1:18-23).

He is Lord of Ministry (Colossians 1:24-29).

He is Lord of our Walk (Colossians 2:1-7).

He is Lord of our Salvation (Colossians 2:8-15).

He is Lord of our Growth (Colossians 2:16-23).

Christ is Our Life (Colossians 3:1-4:1)

In our Minds (Colossians 3:1-4)

In our Bodies (Colossians 3:5-7)

In our Attitudes (Colossians 3:8-17)

In our Relationships (Colossians 3:18-4:1)

Christ is Our Love (Colossians 4:2-18)

Love to Outsiders (Colossians 4:2-5)

Love in Words (4:6)

Love in Personal Thoughts (4:7-18)

Lessons/Applications

Following Christ gives us _____ beyond our _____. (Philippians 4:12-13)

The Gospel of Christ is always _____. (Colossians 2:8)