



## Philippians, Philemon



Philippians,

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## Philippians

### Historical World

P Probably written late 50's early 60's, depending on where he was writing from


- **(Rome – early 60s) 4:22 mentions emperor's household, but the distance between Rome & Philippi make this questionable**
- **He was writing from prison – which prison?**

P Visited Philippi on second missionary journey

P Philippi was in Macedonia, inland city

- **Roman colony architecturally modelled after Rome**

P Turmoil in the church at Philippi possibly over Judaizers (3:2-4)



Philippians

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## Philippians Literary World

P Simple structure: Greeting, Body, Closing/farewell

P Long thanksgiving at the beginning indicating a positive relationship with the Philippians ( "joy" used 16 times)

P Some question over authenticity because of reference to "bishops & deacons"--a later phenomenon or adopted earlier at Philippi; generally accepted as Pauline

P Question of how many letters this is-- 1, 2 or 3?

- **Early part of 3 written at time of Judaizer conflict**
- **Speaks positively of Phil. In ch. 1, but negatively in 3**

P Written under name of Paul & Timothy, but

▸ probably Paul

Philippians Literary World

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## Philippians Lit. World (cont.)

- P Theme of joy with specific reference to Philippians' gifts of money for church in Jerusalem (because of famine that had struck there)
- P Reflects a unity among the churches – especially between gentile Christians and Jewish Christians
- P Christian hymn in 2:6-11 – kenosis theology



Philippians Lit. World (cont.)

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## Philemon

### Historical World

- P Date unsure? Possibly from Rome in early 60's, but the distance is a problem which would suggest mid to late 50's
- P Philemon lived in either Collosae or Ephesus
- P Onesimus is an escaped slave who has been converted by Paul; Onesimus is associated with Philemon's household
- P Paul is sending Onesimus back and is asking for his freedom
- P Strict laws about runaway slaves
- P Church met in Philemon's house
- P Onesimus seems to be young (reference to him becoming bishop later)



Philemon

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## Philemon Literary World

- P Short and specific – one issue letter
- P Requests Philemon to grant freedom to Onesimus
  - Onesimus is a **brother in faith**, Paul's "child" in the faith (perhaps an age thing)
  - In Christ we are all brothers and sisters – undermines all hierarchies



Philemon Literary World

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