

CONFIDENCE
IN CHRIST
A STUDY IN
PAUL'S EPISTLE
TO THE PHILIPPIANS

BACKGROUND TO THE PHILIPPIAN EPISTLE

I. THE CITY OF PHILIPPI

A. Geography

1. Thracian Border (fortified)
2. Egnatian Way
3. Balkan Mountains/Pass
4. Plain of Drama & Angites River
5. Divided City
 - a. Upper: older — citadel
 - b. Lower: newer — forum & market place
6. Gold Mines
7. Neapolis: port 11 miles S.

B. History

1. Old Names: Datois & Krenides (“Little Fountains”)
2. Philip II of Macedonia
 - a. Renamed 356 BC
 - b. Fortified
 - c. Mined to finance campaigns
 - d. (His Son?)
3. Roman Rule
 - a. 168 BC Macedonia Conquered (Battle of Pydna)
 - b. 42 BC— Battle of Philippi
Death of Republic/Birth of Empire
Battle of Brutus & Casius VS Octavian (Augustus)
 - c. Renamed & Elevated “Colonia Julia Philippensis”
 - d. 31 BC after Battle of Actium
Settled by exiled forces of Mark Anthony

C. Politics & Status

1. Roman Colony
 - a. Purpose: Guard the Border
Protect (from Barbarians) & Preserve the Peace
 - b. Privileges
2. Governemnt
 - a. Leadership: 2 praetors (civil & military combined)
 - b. Lictors: attended the praetors

D. Population

1. Romans
2. Macedonians (Greeks)
3. Asians

II. THE CHURCH OF PHILIPPI

A. Philippi in the Bible

1. Acts 16 Visit # 1
2. Acts 18:5 with 2 Corinthian 11:8-9
3. Acts 19:21-22
4. Acts 20:1-3 Visit # 2
5. Acts 20:4-6 Visit # 3

B. The Importance of the Church

1. Divine
2. Strategic
3. Personal

C. Paul's Ministry to the Church (Acts 16)

1. Paul's Confusion 16:6-8
2. Paul's Call 16:9-10
3. Paul's Choice: To the Jews First 16:11-14
4. Paul's Charity (To Paul from others) 16:15
5. Paul's Conflict 16:16-19
6. Paul's Condemnation 16:20-22
7. Paul's Chains 16:23-24
8. Paul's Confidence 16:25
9. Paul's Compassion 16:26-34
10. Paul's Challenge (concerning his treatment) 16:35-40

D. Characteristics of the Church

1. Faithfulness ("from the first day until now" & "unto the day of Jesus Christ")
2. Generosity

E. Later (non-Biblical) History of the Church

1. Assisted Ignatius (early 2nd century) according to Pollycarp
2. Rarely mentioned church history to 5th century
3. City is ruins today

III. THE PHILIPPIAN EPISTLE: WHY?

I. NO Doctrinal Correction

II. NO Wholesale Defection

III. "The Love Connection" 1:7 – 8 & 4:1

IV. A Prisoner's Reflection 1:12 – 14

V. An Uncertain Projection 1:25 – 26

VI. Their Immediate Protection 1:28 – 30; 3:2, 18

VII. Their Preacher's Infection 2:25 – 30

VIII. Paul's Careful Inspection 4:2, etc.

IX. Their Ongoing Collection 4:10 – 19

WHY STUDY PHILIPPIANS?

I. IT IS A MESSAGE TAILOR-MADE FOR THIS GENERATION:

- 1) To a S_____, S_____, and S_____ generation, Christ is our LIFE.
- 2) To a S_____ and S_____ generation, Christ is our LOVE
- 3) To a S_____ - _____ and a S_____ - _____ generation, Christ is our GOAL
- 4) To a S_____ and S_____ generation, Christ is our STRENGTH

II. IT HELPS DEFINE CORRECT CHRISTIAN THINKING LIKE NO OTHER BOOK.

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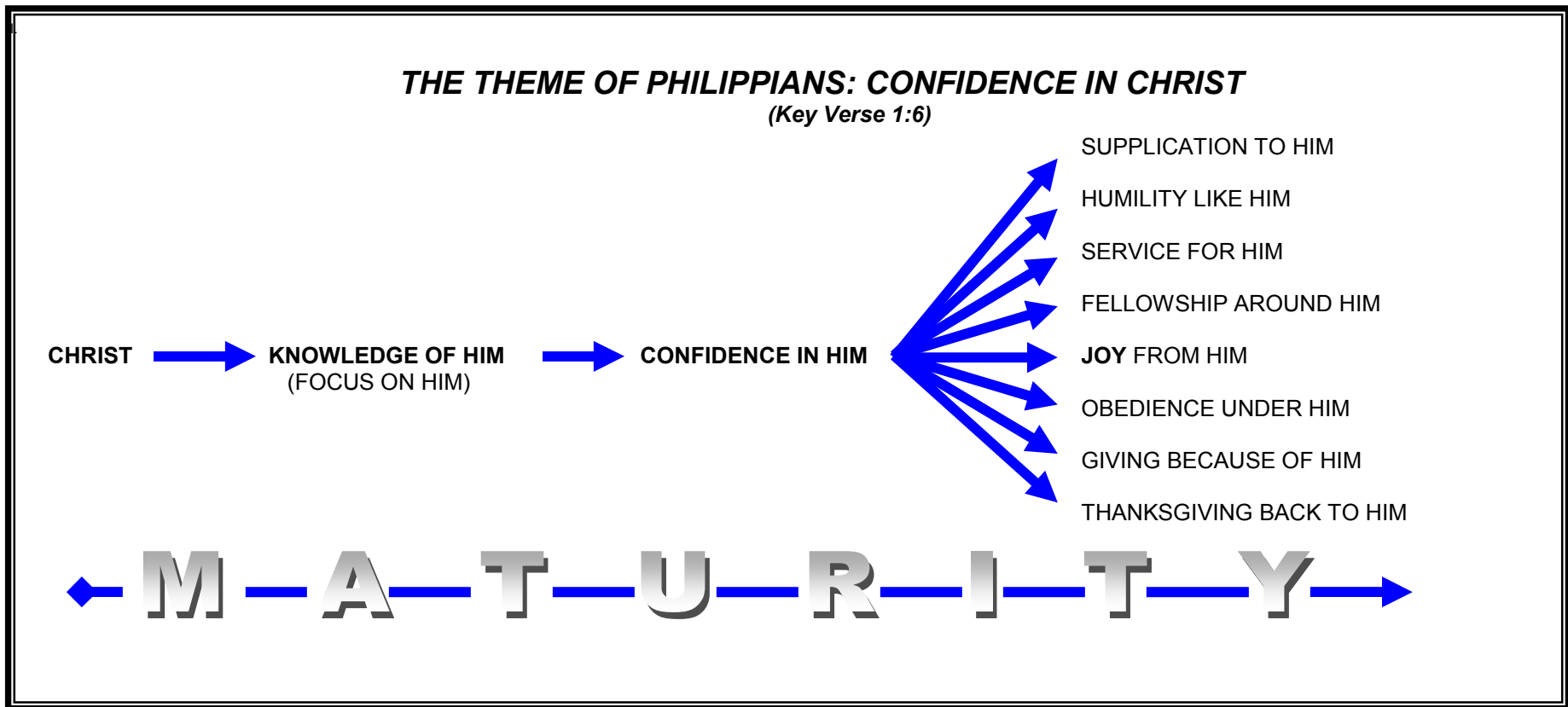
III. IT GIVES US A BRAND NEW PERSPECTIVE ON "FAITH."

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IV. IT TEACHES THE SOURCE OF JOY.

PHILIPPIANS CHART

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Chapter Title</u>	<u>Action Required</u>	<u>Key Verse</u>	<u>Reference</u>
1	Confidence in Our Circumstances	Entreaty (Prayer)	TO LIVE IS CHRIST	1:21
2	Confidence in Our Relationships	Humility	THE MIND OF CHRIST	2:5
3	Confidence in Our Accomplishments & Goals	Priority	THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST	3:10
4	Confidence in Our Attitudes & Abilities	Dependency	THE STRENGTH OF CHRIST	4:13



OUTLINES OF THE EPISTLE

THE "EXAMPLE" OUTLINE (Teaching by Example) [from *Explore the Book* by J. S. Baxter]

<i>Salutation: "Grace be unto you"</i>	1:1 – 2
Paul's Concern for the Philippians	1:3 – 26
EXHORTATION: EXAMPLE OF CHRIST	1:27 – 2:16
EXAMPLE OF TIMOTHY	2:19 – 24
EXAMPLE OF EPAPHRAS	2:25 – 30
EXHORTATION: EXAMPLE OF PAUL	3:1 – 4:9
The Philippians' Concern for Paul	4:10 – 20
<i>Salutation: "Grace be unto you"</i>	4:21 – 23

THE "WHO" OUTLINE

I. ME TO YOU	(Commencement)	1:1 – 2
II. ME FOR YOU	(Celebration in Prayer)	1:3 – 11
III. ME VS. THEM	(Confidence in Crisis)	1:12 – 26
IV. YOU FOR ME	(Conduct Until I Return)	1:27 – 2:18
V. OTHERS FOR US	(Counselors Until I Return)	2:19 – 2:30
VI. US VS. THEM	(Consistence in Attitudes)	3:1 – 4:1
VII. YOU VS. YOURSELVES	(Cooperation with Each Other)	4:2 – 7
VIII. YOU VS. YOURSELF	(Centering your Thoughts)	4:8 – 9
IX. ME FROM YOU	(Commendation for Generosity)	4:10 – 19
X. YOU FROM ME	(Conclusion)	4:20 – 23

THE "CONFIDENCE" OUTLINE

I. CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST OUR LIFE		
A. Confidence in Prayerful Concerns		1:3 – 12
B. Confidence in Present Circumstances		1:13 – 18
C. Confidence in Providential Consequence		1:19 – 30
II. CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST OUR MIND		
A. Confidence in a Purposeful Choice		2:1 – 4
B. Confidence In our Positive Pattern		2:5 – 11
C. Confidence in Prostrated Compliance		2:12 – 18
D. Confidence in Proven Coworkers		2:19 – 30
III. CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST OUR GOAL		
A. NO Confidence in Past Accomplishments		3:1 – 6
B. Confidence in Preferred Alternative		3:7 – 11
C. Confidence in Precise Aim		3:12 – 4:1
IV. CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST OUR STRENGTH		
A. Confidence in Proper Attitudes		4:2 – 9
B. Confidence in Provided Ability		4:10 – 13
C. Confidence in Prosperous Accomplishments		4:14 – 19

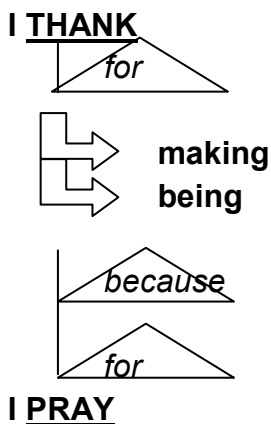
PHILIPPIANS 1:6 — Promise or Possibility?

I. **TEXT:** Philippians 1:3-11

II. **CONTEXT**

A. Mood

B. Structure



C. Definition

“Perfect” – “Complete” epiteleo (Used 10X in Bible)

1. Paul’s usage: Rom 15:8; 2 Cor 7:1; 8:6; & 8:11 (2X)
2. Others’ usage: Lk 13:32; Heb 8:5; 9:6; & 1 Pet 5:9

III. **PRETEXT**

A. “Perfection” As A Promise

1. “From the first day... Unto the day of Christ”
2. Confidence in GOD: HE who began will perfect.

B. “Perfection” As A Possibility

Guaranteed in practice?

1. “fellowship” Conditional on Personal Involvement
(Commitment to people’s lives)
2. “furtherance” Conditional on Financial Involvement
(Commitment to giving)
3. “defense and confirmation”
Conditional on Taking a Stand
(Committed to the cost)
4. The Fourth Factor... Prayer on your behalf

[Note: even Paul’s prayer denotes the conditionality of their perfection.]

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1, VERSES 1 TO 11

- A) The 6 most important questions to ask when studying the Bible are ...?
- B) Who is the letter from?
- C) What 3 “types” of people was it written to?
- D) Who are “all the saints”? What is meant by the term?
- E) Why both “Grace” & “Peace” and not one or the other?
- F) What are the 2 main verbs in verses 1 to 11?
- G) Who is doing both actions (ie, the verbs from F)?
Who is receiving both actions?
Who is benefiting from both actions?
- H) What is the means (1:4-5) and the motivation (1:6) for Paul’s thankfulness?
- I) What are the 3 reasons why it is “meet” [fitting] for Paul to think that God is going to keep working in them? (1:7-8)
- J) How many prayer requests does Paul make?
What are they?
How do they differ from each other?
- K) What are 2 key elements needed to make love grow?
- L) Where are the 3 time references in this passage?
How are they related or different?

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 1

- I. **CHRIST MY LIFE** (Requirements)
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| A. F _____ of Christ. | 1:1 | Follower |
| B. F _____ of Christ. | 1:6, 10 | Future |
| C. F _____ of Christ. | 1:8 | Feelings |
| D. F _____ of Christ. | 1:11 | Fruit |
| E. F _____ of Christ. | 1:13-18 | Furthering (attitude) |
| F. P _____ of Christ. | 1:19 | Power (Resource) |
| G. P _____ of Christ. | 1:20 | Preeminence |
| H. P _____ of Christ. | 1:21 | Priority |
| I. P _____ of Christ. | 1:23 | Presence/Possession |
| J. P _____ of Christ. | 1:26 | Praise |
| K. P _____ of Christ. | 1:27 | Practice |
| L. P _____ of Christ. | 1:29 | Place |
- II. **CHRIST MY LIFE** (Evidence)
- III. **CHRIST YOUR LIFE** (Results)

THE PAULINE METHOD OF MIND CONTROL

Philippians 2:1-11

I. The Motivators for Mind Control

A. The Four Probabilities

1. "Consolation in Christ" *paraklesis*
2. "Comfort of Love" *paramuthion*
3. "Fellowship of the Spirit" *koinonia*
4. "Bowels and Mercies" *splanchnon*
 & *oiktrimos*

B. The Fulfillment of Paul

II. The Methods of Mind Control

A. Command "Be Likeminded"

1. Qualifier # 1 "Same Love"
2. Qualifier # 2 "One Accord"
3. Qualifier # 3 "One Mind"

B. Contrast # 1

1. Not
2. But

C. Contrast # 2

1. Not
2. But

III. The Model of Mind Control

A. The Starting Point: "being" (Position & Reputation)

1. Choose to Act
2. Choose to Act
3. Acted Upon

B. The Submission Point: "being"

1. Choose to Act
2. Choose to Act
3. Acted Upon

IV. The Magnification of the Mind Controlled (Position & Reputation)

A. Position kneeling

B. Reputation confessing

THE PAULINE METHOD OF MIND CONTROL

Philippians 2:1-11 (Continued)

How and When Does God Work in our Hearts to Give us a Divine Mission?

Purposely Progressing from “Position” to “Practice”

Understanding our Rights & Responsibilities

1. L_____ing our G_____
2. L_____ing our G_____
3. L_____ing our G_____
4. Living our Mission

Philippians 2:19-30

Confidence in Providence and People

TIMOTHY

2:19 *elpidzo de* “But I trust”

2:23 *elpidzo* “I hope”

1 *eis*

2 *epi*

3 *en*

PAUL

2:24 *pepoitha de* “But I trust”

1:6 “**Being confident** of this very thing”

1:14 “**waxing confident** in my bonds”

1:25 “And **having this confidence**”

2:24 “But I **trust** in the Lord”

3:3 “and **have no confidence** in the flesh”

3:4 “thinks that he hath whereof he might **trust**”

EPAPRODITUS

2:25 *anagkaion de hegeomai* “Yet I supposed it necessary “
angkaion

1 :24 “in the flesh is **more needful** for you“

2 :25 “Yet I supposed it **necessary** “

hegeomai

2:3 “Let each **esteem** others better than themselves”

2:6 “**thought** it not robbery to be equal with God”

2:25 “Yet I **supposed** it necessary”

3:7 “those I **counted** loss”

3:8 “I **count** all things but loss”

“do **count** them but dung”

EXAMPLES OF THE EXAMPLE

Philippians 2:19-30

“Why mention these men at this place?”

I. THE EXAMPLE OF TIMOTHY

	Characteristics	Modeled in Christ (2:1-11)
2:20	FOR I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state	
2:21	FOR all seek their own, NOT the things which are Jesus Christ's.	
2:22	BUT ye know the <u>proof</u> of him, THAT, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.	

II. THE EXAMPLE OF EPAPHRODITUS

	Characteristics	Modeled in Christ (2:1-11)
2:25	YET I <u>supposed</u> it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, & companion in labour, & fellowsoldier, but your messenger, & he that ministered to my wants.	
2:26	FOR he longed after you all, & was full of heaviness, BECAUSE that ye had heard that he had been sick.	
2:27	FOR indeed he was sick nigh unto death...	
2:29	THEREFORE Receive him in the Lord with all gladness; & hold such in reputation:	
2:30	BECAUSE for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.	

CHRIST MY GOAL

PAUL'S CURE FOR LEGALISM PHILIPPIANS 3:1-16

II. LEGALISM DEFINED

III. LEGALISM DECRIED 3:1-3

IV. LEGALISM DESCRIBED 3: 4-6

V. LEGALISM DEFEATED 3: 7-16

(Adapted from Hiebert's An Introduction to the Pauline Epistles)

A. The Joy of the Lord is the Antidote to Error (3:1-3)

1. The Admonition to rejoice (1)
2. The Admonition to watch the Judiaizers (2)
3. The Identification of the true Israelites (3)

B. The Confirmation From His Own Experience (3:4-11)

1. His former Jewish Privileges (4-6)
 - Circumcised
 - Stock of Israel
 - Tribe of Benjamin
 - Hebrew of Hebrews
 - Pharisee
 - Persecuting
 - Blameless
2. His complete change of values (7-11)
 - That I may...
 - That I may...
 - That I may...
 - That I may...

C. The Christian Life Viewed As One of Progress (3:12-16)

1. His Attitude as to his own perfection (12)
2. His efforts to reach the goal [negative & positive] (13-14)
3. His exhortation to the mature (15-16)

“MIND” in Philippians (a verb)

Phroneo

1:7 Even as it is meet for me **to think** this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

2:2 Fulfill ye my joy, that ye **be likeminded**, having the same love, being of one accord, of one **mind**.

2:5 **Let** this **mind be** in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

3:15 **Let** us therefore, as many as be perfect, **be** thus **minded**: and if in any thing ye **be** otherwise **minded**, God shall reveal even this unto you.

3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, **let us mind** the same thing.

3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, **who mind** earthly things.

4:2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they **be** of the same **mind** in the Lord.

4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your **care** of me hath flourished again; wherein **ye were** also **careful**, but ye lacked opportunity.

Col 3:2 **Set your affection** on things above, not on things on the earth.

Mark 8:33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou **savourest** not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

Strong's": "to exercise the mind, i.e., entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; by implication to be (mentally) disposed (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); ... to interest oneself in (with concern or obedience); -- set the affection on, ...regard, savour, think."