

# Philippians

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# I. THEME

● “REJOICE IN THE  
LORD!”

## II. OCCASION

1. Paul thanked the church for helping him several times & expressed his joy concerning them.
2. Paul rebuked them for contention in 2:1-11 & encouraged them to practice humility.
3. Judiazers challenged them, adding to the requirements for salvation (3:1-6)
4. There were also a perfectionist group (3:12-16 & a materialistic group (3:18-19).

# III. AUTHORSHIP

1. External: Early acceptance by Patristics.
2. Internal: It reflects the mind of Paul. It is the most personal Pauline epistle of the ones not addressed to individuals.

# IV. BACKGROUND

1. Paul established this first European church on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 16:11-15) Lydia then (16:25-40) Jailer
2. In the letter Paul mentions four communications involving Epaphroditus. (2:25-30)

- a. They hear of Paul's imprisonment after 6 months.
  - b. They send Epaphroditus with a gift:  
6 month journey
  - c. They hear of Epaphroditus illness 6 months later.
  - d. Paul hears of their distress over 6 months later.
3. Two companions w/ Paul Timothy & Epaphroditus 2:19-30)