

Lesson #30
Book Overview
Philippians

Philippians makes clear that our stories are living expressions of Jesus' story. Knowing Jesus is a deeply transformative encounter.

Paul is the author.

It is the first Church that he started in Eastern Europe. (Acts 16)

Philippi was a Roman colony in Macedonia i.e. Greece.

Filled with retired Roman soldiers that were very patriotic and nationalistic.

So when Paul announced that Jesus was the true King, he faced great resistance from these vets.

Believers also faced lots of suffering and persecution. But they remained vibrant in their faith.

Paul wrote this letter while in prison. Practical reason is that they sent Paul a love gift while in prison. He says, "thank you".

Whole book revolves around the Messiah poem in 2:6-11.

He then writes about several themes that are related to the Messiah poem.

He focuses on these themes so we learn how our stories are connected to the Messiah's story i.e. Jesus.

1. Opening prayer of thankfulness. 1:1-11
 - a. God will continue the good work He started in their lives.
2. Paul's imprisonment and their concern for him.
 - a. 1:12-26 It was hard but bore fruit.
 - i. Guards knew he was in prison because he proclaimed Jesus as Messiah.
 - ii. Believers were emboldened to speak.
 - iii. Death would be a gain i.e. Be with Jesus forever.
3. Follow Jesus' example. 1:27-2:18
 - a. Follow Jesus as King, despite nationalism for Caesar.
 - i. Suffering is good. Makes us more like Jesus.
4. Messiah Poem. 2:6-11

- a. Refers back to Isaiah and Suffering Servant.
 - i. Messiah emptied Himself of status.
 - ii. Resurrection exalted Jesus as “King”. Is. 45
 - iii. We should imitate that life.
- 5. Two examples. 2:19-30
 - a. Paul writes two stories.
 - i. Timothy
 - 1. Two good examples of those living a Christ centered life.
 - a. Timothy thinks of others rather than himself.
 - b. Epaphroditus who risked his life to help Paul in prison.
 - ii. Epaphroditus
- 6. Paul’s example. 3:1-4:1
 - a. Remembers how he used to persecute Christians.
 - i. Not saved y works.
 - ii. Our true citizenship is in heaven.
 - 1. While here on earth we share God’s grace with others.
- 7. Challenge to live the example. 4:2-9
 - a. Reconciliation
 - i. Two women fighting need to humble themselves.
 - b. Don’t give into FEAR. Focus on the good, lovely etc.
- 8. Closing thanks. 4:10-23.
 - a. He learned the secret of contentment. 4:12-13
- 9. Philippians gives us a unique window into Paul’s heart and mind. He wanted to be like Christ in every way.