



THIS JOY THAT I HAVE

A Journey Through Philippians

Series Aim: To equip and encourage believers to embrace and choose joy in every season of life.

BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS ABOUT PAUL

Name-Born Saul

Birthplace- Tarsus

Occupation-Tentmaker Acts 18:1-3

HIS CHARACTER

- **PHARISEE-** The Pharisees were a major Jewish sect whose insistence on ritual observance of the letter rather than the spirit of the law provoked strong denunciation by Jesus; he called them "white washed tombs" (Matt. 23:27) and self-righteous lovers of display (Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18). In the New Testament the Pharisees appear as Jesus' most outspoken critics. Acts 23:6, Phil 3:3-5
- **PEDIGREE-** Paul's parents were Roman citizens. They must have had much money as they evidently bought their Roman citizenship. Acts 22:25-28
- **PERSECUTOR-** Saul wanted to preserve the way of the Pharisees and he did not accept that Jesus was the Messiah Acts 7:54-60, Acts 8:1-3

HIS CONVERSION

- **Damascus Road-**Acts 9:1-22
- **Arabia-**Gal 1:11-19

BACKGROUND OF PHILIPPI

The name of the city of Philippi was originally Krinides It stood about 10 miles inland from the Aegean Sea in the Roman province of Macedonia. In 356 B.C. Philip II, King of Macedonia and father of Alexander the Great, renamed the town after himself and enlarged it.

The religious life of those in Philippi was marked by very syncretistic practices including the worship of the emperor (Julius, Augustus, and Claudius), the Egyptian gods Isis and Serapis, as well as many other deities. When the Sabbath came Paul went outside the city to the river looking for a place of prayer.

The story of the founding of the church in Philippi appears in Acts 16. Philippi was the first town in which Paul preached after he crossed the Aegean Sea from Troas and entered what we now call Europe. At that time, in A.D. 50, the city had few Jewish residents, and the first converts were Lydia, a Gentile businesswoman from Thyatira in the province of Asia Minor, and the Philippian jailer. The church evidently met in Lydia's home at first (Acts 16:15).

The primary purpose that Paul had in mind when he wrote this epistle seems to have been pastoral: to reassure and encourage the Philippians.

- Epaphroditus, whom they had sent with a gift for Paul and to minister to his needs in prison, had recovered from a serious illness and was about to return to Philippi.
- Another reason for sending this letter include Paul's desire to explain his present circumstances (1:12-26), to announce Timothy's anticipated visit (2:19),
- To express thanks for the Philippians' gift to Paul in prison (4:10-14),
- The primary purpose was to encourage them to have a spirit of joyfulness (3:1; 4:4).

The paradox of a man in prison rejoicing lies at the root of what this book is all about. Such an attitude demonstrates an unusual view of life. It is a uniquely Christian view of life. The dominant emotion that he projected in this book is joy.

PAUL IN PHILIPPI

- **Paul takes Timothy on his journey to Philippi. Acts 16:1-5**
- **Paul is redirected to Philippi. Acts 16:6-10**
- **Lydia is baptized in Philippi. Acts 16:11-15**
- **Paul and Silas are Imprisoned. Acts 16:16-24**
- **Philippian jailer is saved. Acts 16:25-34**
- **Paul departs Philippi. Acts 16:35-40**