



# Philippians

## Having The Mind of Christ

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## Lesson 2 (Philippians 1:1-11) The Mind of Christ Regarding Brethren

Philippians 1:1-11  
(New King James Version)

1. Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
2. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
4. always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,
5. for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,
6. being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;
7. just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.
8. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.
9. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
10. that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,
11. being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

In lesson 1 we learned that Paul wrote Philippians from prison in Rome in 63 or 64 A.D. A key verse that we need to remember is Philippians 2:5, "Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus." In Philippians Paul reveals to us the attitudes which the mind of Christ produced in him.

### **The Author and His Companion**

- 1) Paul: From lesson 1, what past connection did Paul have with the church at Philippi? What would you consider to be Paul's reason for writing this letter.
- 2) Timothy: What past association did Timothy have with Philippi? What association was to be expected in the future?
- 3) How does Paul's reference to himself and Timothy as "Servants of Jesus Christ" contrast with introductions to the Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, etc.?

### **The Recipients**

- 1) Who is the book addressed to, and what is the meaning of each of those names (Saints, Bishops, Deacons)?
- 2) These same people are called another name in 4:15. What does that mean?

- 3) From Acts 16:14-15, 30-34, what kind of people were in this group?

### **The Greeting**

- 1) What is the meaning of the word “grace”? What is the meaning of the word peace? Suggest a possible significance in the order of these.

### **Paul’s Attitude toward the Brethren**

- 1) Read over the text again and write down what it says to you about Paul’s attitude toward brethren at Philippi.
- 2) What things stood out in Paul’s **memory** of the Philippian brethren (vss. 3-7)?
- 3) What words or phrases in verses 3-8 reveal Paul’s **feelings** and **emotions** as he thought of the Philippians?
- 4) From verses 3-9, list some of the things which Paul said he **did** when he remembered what he did and felt what he did about the Philippians.

### **Paul’s Prayer**

- 1) What did Paul pray might abound more and more? In what two things did he wish it to abound? What might be the result if love abounded without these two qualities?
- 2) If these two qualities were increased, what did he say they would be able to do?
- 3) What two things did he want them to be? How long did he want him to be these two things?
- 4) With what did Paul wish for the Philippians to be filled? Through whom is such fruit born? To whose glory would all of this be and why?

### **Applications**

- 1) What usually causes us to pray for congregations at a distance? What do we most often pray for when we pray for them?
- 2) Why do you think our prayers for churches might be different from the kind of prayers Paul prayed?