

## Overview-

- Philippi – colony in province of Macedonia in eastern portion of Roman Empire
- Paul planted church in 49-52; see Acts 16
  - Lydia – 1<sup>st</sup> convert; 1<sup>st</sup> church met in her home
- Philippians written in 60-62
  - Written while Paul imprisoned in Rome; see Acts 28.16 and 28-30
    - Lived in own rented home (house arrest)
    - Chained to a guard
    - Responsible for own expenses
  - Philippians sent 'care package' through Epaphroditus
  - Paul sent letter back to Philippians through Epaphroditus
  - Tone – warm/friendly
- Written to:
  - Say 'thank you' for gift
  - To encourage church in face of external opposition
  - To warn/call out grumbling in church before it turns into full blown divisions

# PHILIPPIANS OVERVIEW



## Greeting-

- **Timothy** – part of team that planted church in Philippi; probably wrote letter as Paul dictated
- **Church** – think multiple house churches of 10-25 people that collectively make up the church in the city; letter would be circulated to each one
- **Overseer** – (bishop); provide oversight to congregation, i.e. teaching and care
- **Deacon** – lit. servant; possibly focused on external ministry like care for the poor
- **Grace** – God's undeserved favor
- **Peace** – taken from rich Hebrew word *shalom*; well-being, harmony, wholeness

# PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11



# Thanksgiving

- **Partnership** – *koinonia*; fellowship or common participation in an endeavor
- **Gospel** – Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom
- **Good work** – salvation; work of Gospel in their lives (good work *in* you, not *through* you) sanctifying them/making them more like Jesus

**Partnership in Gospel refers to their common participation with Paul in the Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom through:**

- their financial support of Paul as he advances the Gospel wherever he is sent by Holy Spirit; see 4.15-16
- their work advancing the Gospel in their community
- the work of Gospel in their lives making them more like Jesus

## PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11



**Prayer** – focus on their relationships with one another

- **Love** – to seek the welfare of another even if it costs (self-sacrificial)
- **Knowledge** – relational/experiential not intellectual/mental
- **Depth of insight** – moral/spiritual perceptions
- **Discern** – to approve after careful testing
- **Best** – in this case what is essential
- **Pure** – more literally to be held up to the sunlight for inspection; to be sincere; w/o hidden motives
- **Blameless** –not causing offense to another
- **Fruit of righteousness** – fruit that is righteous; works that Holy Spirit produces in/through us; fruit of the Spirit

# PHILIPPIANS

## 1:1-11



Paul prays that their seeking of one another's welfare would overflow with personal knowledge of each other and with genuine understanding of what God says 'welfare' is with the results that:

- they would be genuinely helpful to those they are loving - they can make proper judgements on what is essential to following Christ
- their motives in how they treat each other would be sincere and their words/actions will not cause others to stumble
- their interactions with one another will embody the fruit of the Spirit

# PHILIPPIANS

## 1:1-11





ADOPT

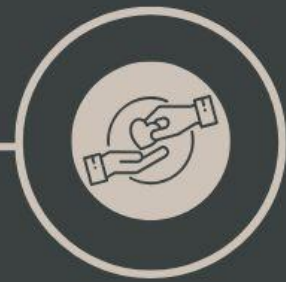


Adopt one of  
our 21 long-term  
ministry  
partners



FOCUS

Pray for them  
weekly and read  
their monthly  
newsletter



GIVE

Give monthly in  
addition to your  
regular giving to  
Kingdom causes



PRAY

# PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11



## Pray Paul's prayer for ourselves-

- Want our love for others to abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight
- Answer is
  - Partially God's work – need revelation
  - Partially our work – led by the Spirit we
    - Get to know others better – ask questions, listen
    - Get to know God and His ways better – read the Bible

# PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11