

# The Book of Philippians

**Author:** Apostle Paul

**Date letter was written:** 60-63 A.D.

**People letter was written to:** The church at Philippi

The church at Philippi was the first European church founded by Paul. The founding of the church occurred on Paul's second missionary journey (AD 50-53) and is recorded in Acts 16:11-40. Many of the people in Philippi were Roman citizens who had come from Italy (Acts 16:12). Some were Roman soldiers ordered by Anthony to remain in Philippi after the Battle of Philippi in 42 BC, others were Roman citizens ordered by Octavian to move there in 30 BC. Despite being forced to leave Italy, these individuals were allowed to maintain their Roman citizenship along with the rights that came with being Roman. Thus, Philippi was a Roman colony in government and customs.

**Place of writing:** Rome

Paul wrote the letter to the Philippian church while he was imprisoned at Rome (Acts 28:30 – under house arrest). This book, along with Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon make up the "Prison Epistles".

**Reason for writing:** Paul wrote to the Philippian church in order to:

- > Express his gratitude for the gift they had sent him (4:18)
- > Encourage Christian living (1:27-30; 3:4-16)
- > Promote unity within the church (2:2-4; 4:2)
- > Fill their hearts with gladness (1:25; 2:18; 3:1; 4:4)

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