

## PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Philippi



Map: [www.bible-history.com](http://www.bible-history.com)

**A.D. 49-51** – Within 20 years of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, Paul, the great missionary of the early church, shares the story of Jesus in Europe for the first time. In the Roman colony of Philippi, two converts, a businesswoman named Lydia, and a jailer whose name we do not know, believe in Christ, and become the foundation of the church (their stories are told in the Book of Acts, Ch.16).

**A.D. 60-62** – Paul writes a letter to the church in Philippi which is now included in our Bible. Paul states in the letter that he is writing from prison (Phil.1:7). No date or location is shared, but the two most likely possibilities are that the letter was written in Caesarea (near Jerusalem) or Rome, when Paul was a prisoner -- around A.D. 60-62. (See Acts 25-26; 28:11-31).

### **Paul writes to the Philippian Christians in order to:**

1. **Thank them** for remembering him, and for providing for his needs (see 1:3-7, 2:19-30; 4:10-20) through a messenger named Epaphroditus.
2. **Encourage their faith in God**, and to give them wisdom to flourish (2:12-18; 3:1-4:9) even when it seems that God has forgotten them (Paul mentions his imprisonment and their struggle with persecution: 1:7, 12-30).
3. **Remind them** that at the center of God's purposes is the knowledge that hardship, and even death, cannot thwart God's purposes in the world or for us: indeed, in the person of Jesus, God himself suffered, and yet became triumphant (2:1-11).