

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**PHILIPPIANS 1*****Philippians 1***

Philippians, like the Letter to the Ephesians, was written by the Apostle Paul from prison. He would have written from his Roman imprisonment, not his imprisonment in Caesarea by the Sea in the Roman province of Judea, in Israel. The letter was written approximately 60-62 A.D.

The City of Philippi was a Roman Colony founded by Philip the Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. As a Roman Colony, it had special privileges and rights of citizenship related to taxes. It was a very attractive place to live. This was a distinctively Greco-Roman city. There were not even enough Jews in the city to form a synagogue or have a prayer meeting in the place.

It takes ten (10) Jewish men to form a minyan. According to Luke's account in Acts 16, Paul and his companions, now including Luke, the beloved physician of Paul, came from Troas to Philippi after seeing a vision of a person calling them to come help. Paul met Lydia from the Roman city of Thyatira in Modern-day Turkey. She was a businesswoman who had a business in Philippi selling cloth that had been dyed in a rare purple color. God opened Lydia's heart to the Good News of Jesus, and she was saved and immediately followed the Lord in baptism as a believer.

God so blessed the preaching of Paul and Silas, his companion, that it caused an uproar and riot in the city. Paul and Silas were arrested and put into the most secure part of the prison, a dungeon. It was there that Paul and Silas were singing praises to God around Midnight. God sent an earthquake so strong that the prison guard thought surely the prisoners would escape. He was about to commit suicide when Paul called for him to do himself no harm, as the prisoners were all there and safe. The prison guard came in, fell at their feet, and asked how he could be saved. Paul said, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."** He did believe, and that night, he showed that he truly repented and took Paul, Silas, and the others to his house, where his entire family was saved and baptized all at the same time. In the next three chapters, we will look at the most joyful book, written from prison to a church that was alive with the presence of God.



ON THE WAY

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, thank You that You are with us no matter what our circumstances. Please help us to realize that neither circumstance, the people we deal with, nor our financial position should ever control our joy. Fill us with Your Spirit and with joy. Amen