

## Lecture 27 – Philippians: Background & Outline

*“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” Philippians 1:9-11*

### Key Terms

Church plant, rhetorical approach, epistolary approach, chiasmic approach

### Objectives

- \*Describe the circumstances of the church plant in Philippi.
- \*Explain the difference between a Roman colony and a Roman province.
- \*Identify the special characteristics of Philippi.
- \*Memorize the outline of Philippians.
- \*Formulate the purpose of the letter to the Philippians.
- \*Explain what is meant by the chiasmic, rhetorical and epistolary approach.

### Philippians: Background & Outline

#### I. Background and Occasion

A. Planting of the church: AD 50-51, during second missionary journey

B. This church was planted under unusual circumstances.

1. Acts 16:12-15, Evangelism

2. Acts 16:16-18, Expulsion of a \_\_\_\_\_

3. Acts 16:19-40, Account of a \_\_\_\_\_

4. They were there a very short time to plant a church – it all happens very quickly.

C. Philippians 1:13

1. Paul is in chains while he writes this letter, so he is either in \_\_\_\_\_ (AD 57-59) or \_\_\_\_\_ (AD 61-62).

D. The city of Philippi

Roman Colony

Local authority

Extension of Rome

Philippi

Roman Province

Governed by Rome

Captive of Rome

Judea or Palestine

Procurator/Proconsul—directly answerable to Caesar

Prosenator—answerable to Senate

E. Very prosperous city

F. Proud of being Roman citizens

1. Philippians 3:20: ‘But our citizenship is in heaven.’

G. Strong military presence

H. No synagogue in Philippi

I. So who does Paul find in Philippi?

1. Lydia                      She represents \_\_\_\_\_

2. Slave girl                 She represents \_\_\_\_\_

3. A jailer                     He represents \_\_\_\_\_

J. Philippi becomes one of Paul’s most beloved churches.

#### II. The Purpose of Philippians

A. The fact that the word ‘joy’ is used 16 times does not mean it is a letter about joy.

B. The fact that Paul talks about disunity at the beginning and at the end does not mean there was a problem with disunity in the church.

C. Best approach to finding the purpose of Philippians is to make an outline

III. Outline of Philippians

A. Phil. 1:1-11 Greeting, thanksgiving and prayer

B. Phil. 1:12-26 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Phil. 1:27-2:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Phil. 1:27-30 \_\_\_\_\_

Phil. 2:1-18 Serve \_\_\_\_\_

D. Phil. 2:19-30 \_\_\_\_\_

E. Phil. 3:1 - 4:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Legalism

Antinomianism

F. Phil. 4:2-23 \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Purpose of Philippians, cont.

A. Look at form and structure, to see how the elements of Philippians hang together.

B. If we identify the literary form, we can find out how it aids the content the author wants to convey.

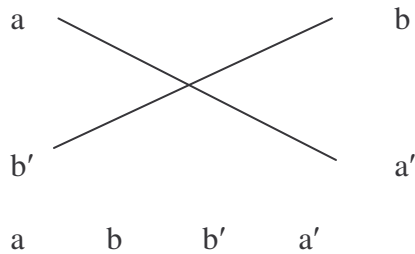
C. Form is the servant of content.

D. Three approaches:

1. Rhetorical approach

2. Epistolary approach

3. Chiastic approach



Col. 1:16 is an example: heaven and earth, visible and invisible.

E. On the macro level, Philippians features a tri-partite chiasm.

1. This structure would have helped the Philippians read the letter and understand its emphases.