

Philippians Bible Study  
**Introduction, Themes and Salutation**  
September 15, 2024

### Introduction

1. This epistle from Paul to the church in Philippi is one of joy and fellowship. In a way that is different than his other letters in the Bible, Paul shares a specific connection, friendship and specific concerns for the people.
  - a. What are some of your thoughts about Paul's letters? What do you expect to read/hear in them?
  - b. Often Paul's letters are very heady and have deep, intense theology. This epistle has great theology, but it is presented in a different way.
2. Philippi is a full on Roman city where the citizens are considered Romans.
  - a. This comes with a lot of opportunity for evangelism, but a lot of opportunity for oppression as well.
3. Paul helped start the church in Philippi on his second missionary Journey.
  - a. Read Acts 16:11-15.
  - b. Lydia and her heart of care, service and provision for Paul and his ministry was there at the beginning and would seem to be a staple of the church for years to come.

### Themes

4. In the Book of Concord (the authoritative collection of the Lutheran Church's statements of faith) Paul's letter to the Philippians is used for some exciting and occasionally controversial topics:
  - a. Free will
  - b. Election
  - c. Good works
  - d. The Person of Christ
  - e. Righteousness
5. The explanation that is included in Luther's Small Catechism frequently references Philippians when talking about:
  - a. The 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer and Confession.

### Salutation

Philippians 1:1-2 — What stands out in just these two verses (without looking down)?

6. "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus..."
  - a. Here, as in 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Philemon, Paul does not assert his apostleship and authority.
  - b. The themes of servanthood and unity are going to be key all throughout.