

# The Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

## Introduction

### Author

Who is the author of the letter to the Philippians?

### Destination

Where is Philippi located and why was its location important?

### Purpose

Does the letter address any doctrinal or disciplinary crisis? What is its purpose?

### Themes

What does the letter challenge the Philippians to do?  
Who should the Philippians imitate what virtues are to be acquired?

# Chapter 1

## Salutation

What does Paul mean when he uses the terms “bishops and deacons”? (Note 1:1)

## To Live Is Christ

What is meant by the following verse: “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,” (Note 1:29)

# Chapter 2

## Imitating Christ’s Humility

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,<sup>[a]</sup> did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,<sup>[b]</sup> taking the form of a servant,<sup>[c]</sup> being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What is the meaning of these verses? (Note 2:6-11)

What is the relationship between the divine life and the human life of Jesus? (Note 2:6)

How was death by Crucifixion viewed in the ancient world? (Note 2:8)

### Shining as Lights in the World

What is meant by the following verses: <sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Note 2:12)

What is meant by the following verse: <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured as a libation upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. (Note 2:17)

## Timothy and Epaphroditus

Who is Timothy? (Note 2:19)

How does St. Paul see his relationship with Timothy (Note 2:22)

## Chapter 3

### Loss of All to Gain Christ

What does St. Paul mean when he says, <sup>2</sup> Look out for the dogs, look out for the evil-workers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For we are the true circumcision, who worship God in spirit, <sup>[a]</sup> and glory in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh. (Note 3:2, 3:3)

What are St. Paul's credentials as a true Israelite? (Note 3:4-5)

What is meant by the verse: <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; (Note 3:9)

### Pressing toward the Goal

What is the meaning of the following verses: <sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. (Note 3:18-19)

## Chapter 4

### Exhortations

Who is Clement? (Note 4:3)

# The Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

## Introduction

### Author

Who is the author of the letter to the Colossians?

### Date

When and where was St. Paul imprisoned? What are the other Captivity Epistles?

### Purpose

Who were the agitators that were planting doubts that the Gentiles could enjoy full membership in God's family?

### Themes and Characteristics

What two motifs stand out in St. Paul's preaching?

# Chapter 1

## Gratitude for the Colossians' Faith

Who is Epaphras? (Note 1:7)

## The Supremacy of Christ

What is the meaning of the following verses?

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born<sup>[c]</sup> of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he<sup>[d]</sup> might be pre-eminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Note 1:15-20)

## Paul's Sufferings and Ministry

What does St. Paul mean when he says the following?

<sup>24</sup> "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church," (Note 1:24)

## Chapter 2

### Warnings against False Teachers

How does St. Paul correct the false teachings of the Jewish troublemakers in Colossae? (Note 2:8-23)

What is the Biblical basis for infant baptism as it relates to Circumcision? (Note 2:11)

What is the meaning of food...drink.....festival....new moon....Sabbath? (Note 2:16)

## Chapter 3

### New Life in Christ

What is meant by the following passage?

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Note 3:5)

What is meant by the following passage?

<sup>11</sup> Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. (Note 3:11)

What is the meaning of the word "Peace"? (Word Study)