

# REFLECTION

## Lesson 1

### Reflecting Gratitude

Philippians 1:1-8

#### WHY ARE WE STUDYING PHILIPPIANS?

“Any Christian who is feeling down or discouraged about anything should study Paul’s great letter to the Philippians.”

James Montgomery Boice

- A. As we reflect on ALL that God has done, our lives should reflect Jesus.
- B. We will learn themes and deeply practical words.

#### WHAT IS THE OUTCOME OF STUDYING PHILIPPIANS?

- A. We will relate Paul’s world to ours.
- B. To learn how to practically live Biblically.

#### WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OF PHILIPPIANS?

- A. What was Philippi like?
  1. It was strategically located.
  2. It had a rich heritage and distinct culture.
  3. Paul used this city as a base for his evangelistic efforts.
- B. What was happening when Paul arrived?
  1. A group of women were worshiping by a river.
  2. They were unpopular with city management.

- C. The Philippian church was a favorite of Paul's.
  - 1. They were **generous** supporters.
  - 2. They were **generous** in spite of personal **poverty**.
  - 3. They were an **encouragement**.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PHILIPPIANS?

- A. It is the most **personal** of Paul's writings.
  - 1. It is filled with personal **touches**.
  - 2. There is an absence of **formal doctrine**.
  - 3. We get a **glimpse** into Paul's **heart**.
- B. Paul was in **prison** while writing this book.
  - 1. He was possibly facing his **execution**.
  - 2. His theme of **joy** in spite of trials has tremendous **credibility**.
- C. Paul had several **reasons** for writing Philippians.
  - 1. For **explanation**
  - 2. For expressing **gratitude**
  - 3. To **warn** them
  - 4. To **encourage** them

## WHAT ARE THE THEMES OF THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS?

- A. The first theme is **learning** to have **joy**.
- B. The second theme is the “**how to**” of having **joy**.

“The secret is a simple one: Paul has filled his mind with Christ.”

James Montgomery Boice

- C. The third theme is dealing with **challenges** in the **church**.

“**Philippians...has at its heart a depth of fellowship that exceeds any earthly fellowship – ‘your partnership (fellowship) in the gospel.’ (Verse 5)**”

Kent Hughes

1. **Church unity**
2. Dealing with **suffering**
3. Dealing with a **hostile world**

#### PAUL’S OPENING REMARKS

- A. He begins with words of **greeting**.
- B. He uses three basic **changes**.
  1. He **changes** how he **references** himself.
  2. He mentions all the “**saints**.”
  3. He **focuses** on what God has **done**.
- C. He uses prayers of **thanksgiving**.
  1. Because they have **partnered** with him
  2. Because he is **confident** that God is **working** in their lives
  3. Because of his personal **affection** for them