

# 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