

INTRODUCTION

- * Soon after Marcia and I were saved by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, we began to memorize God's Word. Through the discipleship of Woody and Della Proffitt, we were encouraged to memorize books at a time. The Lord led Marcia and I to memorize Paul's epistle to the Philippians. It quickly became clear why - as it has truly dominated my thinking for the past 42 years. Marcia and I had chosen James 1:22-25 as our life verses as a couple when we were given a new heart in Christ. But, as I memorized and meditated upon Paul's testimony and words to this church, his pursuit became my pursuit - to know Christ! For too many years, I knew about Jesus. Now, having experienced His grace and mercy, and the peace which passes understanding, I wanted to KNOW Him!
- * Interestingly, this is the first time that I will be teaching through this book during a morning worship service. I spent a long time teaching through it during Sunday School in 1997 and 2010. Otherwise, it has been that precious letter which God has used predominantly to help me change the way I think.
- * Paul's letter to the Philippians was written approximately only 12 years after his initial visit there and the planting of the church. On that visit, Paul and his companions had led Lydia and her household to Jesus, they had cast out the demon from the fortune teller slave, and they had led the Philippian jailer's family to the Lord. We are not told how long Paul and his entourage were in Philippi ... but it appears that they were there for only a couple of months at most. Acts 16:12 states "we were staying in that city for some days." And then, verse 18 states that the slave girl who was possessed with a spirit of divination pestered Paul for "many days." Paul then visited Philippi briefly a couple of years later after the riot in Ephesus (cf. Acts 20:1-6).
- * In this short letter, we have an exhortation for the church to remain unified in their focus on Christ and seeking to make His known to those in their sphere of influence.
- * Today, the goal is to consider the background and overview of the book.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE A _____ (cf. Acts 16:1-10)

A. Their I _____

1. PAUL (cf. Acts 22: 3; Acts 7:58 - 8:3; Acts 9)
2. TIMOTHY (cf. Acts 16: 1; Acts 14: 8, 19; 1 Timothy 1:3)

B. Their T _____

1. THE DEFINITION OF A BOND-SLAVE
2. BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF A BOND-SLAVE
cf. Luke 12:35-40; Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 12:42-48; Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 15:11-24; Luke 17:7-10

C. Their A _____

1. F _____ FROM THE LAW (cf. John 8:31-36; Philemon 15-16; Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:1-7)
2. R _____ TO THE LORD (cf. Matthew 6:24; Romans 6:15-23; Galatians 1:10)

II. THE R _____ (cf. Acts 16:11-40)

A. It's B _____

1. THE CALL TO MACEDONIA
2. THE CONVERSION OF LYDIA
3. THE EXORCISM OF THE DEMON
4. THE SALVATION OF THE JAILER

B. It's A _____ (cf. Philippians 1:1)

1. THE SAINTS
2. THE BISHOPS
 - a. Their Function (cf. Acts 20:17-32; 1 Peter 5:1-5; 1 Timothy 3:1-7)
 - b. Their Plurality (cf. Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2,4,6,22,23; 16:4; 20:17; 21:18)
3. THE DEACONS (cf. 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

III. THE T_____ (11:9 - 12:14)

- A. Chapter 1 ... Stay Unified in the P_____ of Christ (cf. 1:5, 7)
- B. Chapter 2 ... Stay Unified in the P_____ of Christ (cf. 2:1)
- C. Chapter 3 ... Stay Unified in the P_____ of Christ (cf. 3:10)
- D. Chapter 4 ... Stay Unified in the P_____ of Christ (cf. 4:14,15)

INTROSPECTION

- * Who are you serving? Who is your Master?
- * Are you committed to seeing the Kingdom of God expanded?
- * Is your life changed such that others see it?
- * How important is the oneness of the body of Christ to you?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Considering the testimony recorded in Acts 16, regarding Paul's call to Macedonia and the work of the Lord in Philippi ... what aspect of the account has made the most impact upon you (in your thinking, belief system, lifestyle, etc)?
- * How submissive are we to the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit?
- * How can we improve in this area?