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## The Friendly, Yet Challenging Words of Philippians

Philippians 1:1-2

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Paul's Greeting of His Friends and Their Leaders

### Four Key Issues of Philippians

1. Philippians represents Paul's longest history with a church before writing to them.

See Acts 16:11-40 for the church's founding on Paul's second missionary journey in AD 50.

See Philippians 4:10-20 for Paul's "thank-you note."

2. Philippi was one of five Roman colonies Paul visited; the Philippians were astonishingly proud of this special status and were caught up in the honor-oriented culture of their city

See Philippians 1:27-30 (the main exhortation of the body of the letter), see especially 1:27 and the key verb, politeuesthai, "conduct yourselves [as a citizen]."

See also Philippians 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven,..."

3. Therefore, Paul has a robust emphasis on living in light of the gospel-cause. For example, see Philippians 1:12 and 1:27.

4. And Paul also emphasizes the importance of finding joy and rejoicing in hard circumstances. See Philippians 4:4.

### Conclusion