

## Philippians (Part One)

In this exercise and the next we will read a letter which St Paul wrote to some people who had helped him out when he was in trouble. These people were members of a church he had built in the city of Philippi. You may need a Bible with introductions to each book or a Bible dictionary to answer these questions.

1. What predicament was Paul in when he wrote this letter?
2. Where on map is the city of Philippi?
3. What had the Philippians done to help Paul?
4. Why did Paul write this letter?
5. Where did you get the information to answer these first four questions?
6. Read **Philippians 23:19-30 & 4:2-3** and identify these six people.

Paul -	Timothy -	Epaphroditus -
Euodia -	Syntyche -	Clement -

7. Now go back and read **Philippians 1:1-11**. This is Paul's prayer; first he gives thanks to *God* because the people of Philippi helped him spread the *Gospel*; then he asks *God* to help them. What exactly does he ask for?
  
8. When you read **Philippians 1:12-20**, you will realize that Paul was in serious trouble. Even though he was in jail, his opponents were jealous of him, and to make matters worse he was not sure whether he would get out alive. How would you react in that kind of situation? How did Paul react?
  
9. Apparently Paul was really upset by his opponents, and he wanted to show that his credentials were as good as or better than theirs. Read **Philippians 3:1-10** and list some of the "credentials" Paul could "brag" about.
  
10. Then Paul said that all of these "accomplishments" were worthless; the only thing that counts is knowing and being known by *Christ Jesus*. Think about your own life. What do you think is most important? Would you trade it for being close to *Christ*? Really? Why?