

THE PRISON LETTERS (Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians*)

PHILIPPIANS (about 62 C.E./A.D.)

Epaphroditus brings gifts from Philippian Church - Paul sends letter back to them by him.

26-11-*THE MESSIAH POEM*

Pre-existent ... Becomes humble Servant ... Resurrected King ... Praise (Isaiah 45:23)

1:1-5, 2:12-4:23-*THE TEXT*

Section I (1:1-11) - Thankfulness

Section II (1:12-26) - The Advantage of Suffering

Paul is enabled to preach to Roman hierarchy (reference in 4:22)
Immediate Migration of the Soul (1:21)

Section III (1:27-2:18) - Ultimate Loyalty

Jesus or Caesar? In Roman retirement community and under Roman rule, difficult question as the answer could lead to persecution or its avoidance

Section IV (2:19-30) - Personal Witnesses of Faithfulness (the Christ Nature)

Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:19-30), Paul's story (3:1-4:1)
Children of Christ's Kingdom, not Caesar's (3:20)

Section V (4:2-30) Peace and Positivity

Follow "the Prince of Peace" in church relationships (4:2-9, Euodia and Syntyche)
"A peace that passes understanding" (4:7)
"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (4:13)
Ends letter where it began (4:14-23)

* Biblical scholars are divided regarding the authorship of Ephesians. (Remember, what the letter says is more important than determining who said it)