**PHILIPPIANS**

Introduction

*Author, Date and Place of Writing*

It is evident that Paul wrote the letter from prison (see 1:13-14). Some have argued that this imprisonment took place in Ephesus, perhaps c. a.d. 53–55; others put it in Caesarea c. 57–59. Best evidence, however, favors Rome as the place of origin and the date as c. 61. This fits well with the account of Paul’s house arrest. When he wrote Philippians, he was not in the Mamertine dungeon as he was when he wrote 2 Timothy. He was in his own rented house, where for two years he was free to impart the gospel to all who came to him. (Concordia Study Bible)

*Purpose*

Paul’s primary purpose in writing this letter was to thank the Philippians for the gift they had sent him upon learning of his detention at Rome (1:5; 4:10–19). However, he makes use of this occasion to fulfill several other desires: (1) to report on his own circumstances, (2) to encourage the Philippians to stand firm in the face of persecution and rejoice regardless of circumstances, (3) to exhort them to humility and unity, (4) to commend Timothy and Epaphroditus to the Philippian church. (Concordia Study Bible)

*Philippi*

The city of Philippi was named after King Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. It was a prosperous Roman colony, which meant that the citizens of Philippi were also citizens of the city of Rome itself. They prided themselves on being Romans, dressed like Romans and often spoke Latin. Many of the Philippians were retired military men who had been given land in the vicinity and who in turn served as a military presence in this frontier city. That Philippi was a Roman colony may explain why there were not enough Jews there to permit the establishment of a synagogue and why Paul does not quote the OT in the Philippian letter. (Concordia Study Bible)

The objective of founding the town was to take control of the neighboring [gold](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold) mines and to establish a garrison at a strategic passage: the site controlled the route between [Amphipolis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphipolis) and [Neapolis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kavala), part of the great royal route which crosses Macedonia from the east to the west and which was reconstructed later by the [Roman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire) as the [*Via Egnatia*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via_Egnatia). The Via Egnatia was built beginning in 145 BC and at its greatest extent connected Rome with the Eastern ports. The Egnatian Way made it easier for Rome to move troops throughout the empire and it was the route that Paul traveled on from Neapolis to Philippi, Amphipolis, Apollonia and Thessalonica. (Wikipedia)